

SPECIAL OFFER ISSUE (12) OF THE

BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you as often as my players will permit, by John Michalski, 913 NE 6 St, Moore, OK 73160. No calls with moves without notification, but see VARIOUS NOTES this issue. BB is available for \$2 for all issues from now until 12-1-78. There are NO game openings now or in the foreseeable future.

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is dedicated to running three postal Dip games the way the publisher wishes games he is in were run: fast & cheap. BB promises fast adjudications, nothing more. However, filler of all sorts, whether letters, clippings, cartoons, jokes, puzzles, whatever, are strongly encouraged. PRESS in the games is wide open except for 77KN, and is also encouraged. Usually there's lots, but unless a lot arrives here at the last minute (not at all unlikely, I'm afraid), there will be darn little in this issue.

✓ WHAT SPECIAL OFFER?? Well, that's why there's no JOHN'S NOTES again this issue. The reverse is blank so that YOU can fill it in and return it if you wish. The labels of my address list were so popular some issues back that I'm giving you the chance to get some of your own. Fill in the master with GMs, allies, your own address, whatever, and return it with sufficient postage to bring them back to you, and I'll send you about four or five sheets. I'd recommend 35-50¢ or so. They're heavy. Still, you can have them virtually at cost to deliver them, providing you don't ask for too many (like 20, e.g.). If it's worth the effort to type up the reverse to you, go to it!

Excerpts from CONSERVATIVE DIGEST are with permission of them at 7777 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. Since I mentioned that, I should also mention that DIPLOMACY was invented by Alan Calhamer, if you didn't know it, and is copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore, a top-notch game company if you like playable wargames. (I also plug, you see). BB follows its author's conservative-to-reactionary outlook, but will gladly print almost anything else, like it or not. If I will run the Turkish 78AX press as I have within, obviously little censorship (or taste) is used in the issue's preparation. Take advantage of that and send something in, or else put up with the long letters and longer replies that burden this #12. J.M.

SURVEY RESULTS will be in a future issue, maybe a few down the road. There was quite a turnout. Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill them out. And to those of you that filled them out without taking too much time, also.

1977 KN: SEASONS SEPARATE IN FIRST SUCCESSFUL VOTE! CAN GM GET THROUGH A WINTER WITHOUT SCREWING UP THAT TOO?

Kassel AUSTRIA: A Ven r PIE Has As: PIE, TRI, SER, GAL, BUD
Scott ENGLAND: Removes F Lon Has: -O- Out.
Diller FRANCE: Builds F MAR, A BRE Has Fs: MAR, WAL, TUN, BEL; As: BRE, ION, PIC, BUR
Workman GERMANY: F Hol r KIE, removes F Bal Has: Fs KIE, DEN; As: RUH, PAR, SIL
Kelly ITALY: Removes A Tus Has: Fa NAP, VEN; A ROM
McElvquey RUSSIA: Builds A STP, A MOS Has: Fs HOL, NWY, SKA; As SEV, UKR, WAR, MOS, STP
Huesfon TURKEY: Builds F SMY Has: Fs SMY, ION, BLA, ARM; A RUM

There has been a call for a concession to FRANCE & RUSSIA. This must be unanimous to pass; anyone failing to vote will be presumed to have voted NO in this case.

DEADLINE for Spring, 1906, will now be TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1978. You don't need send in new orders if your old conditional ones will do for you. Just sit back and wait for the weeks to pass, just like this was any other Dipzine. Why not use the time to type a letter or article? There's lots of provocative stuff in this issue. There's lots of EVERYTHING in this issue. Including the PRESS below:

BERLIN-- England stabbed Germany in Fall 1902. England was out in Fall, 1905.
Because of his stab, David Scott became the first dead body found among the pages of the Brutus Bulletin.
Traitors will die.

From "Intellectual Poems," Vol 1, published by Instant Insanity Press, Kiel:

Oh they say that the smog of Fontana
Sure does make a man yearn for Montana.
Yes, his lungs breathe the stew,
Then the mind turns to goo,
And he acts like his brain's a banana.

((I wish to propose a vote on banning any further limericks from these pages before too many more of the readership is afflicted with this disease. All the readership is invited to vote. jmm))

(see deadline note on KS page)

Why is this issue so big? Well, I had a lot of letters, and as I came down to the wire, I had the choice of running an issue that was just games & letters, or, dipping into the pocket and running EVERYTHING that has accumulated here waiting for an issue, and "clear the boat" with one super issue. I opted for the latter. Otherwise I'd be carrying over 4-5 pages for #13, which wouldn't leave much room even if everyone wrote nothing... So, enjoy it while you can. You won't see another like this for a LONG time!

jmm.

(Reverse is blank)

77KS Winter, 1904, Spring, 1905.

The vote to separate the seasons failed.

Winter: England r F Ska
France r A Wal
Germany builds A BER
Italy r F Lyon
Russia builds A WAR, F StPnc
Turkey builds F SNY

Spring:

AUSTRIA (PRICE): F Ven S A Tri/d/r Apu, Adr, Otb; A TRI S
A Ser; A Bud S A Ser/ann.; A SER S A Bud;

ENGLAND (HUNT): FEng-BRE; F Bre-GAS; A Lvp-YOR

FRANCE (GRABAR): NMR! F IRI, F MAO, A SPA, A MAR H

GERMANY (REGES): F Lon-WAL; F Hel-NTH; F DEN S F Hel-Nth;
A Ber-MUN; A Kie-RUH; A Mun-BUR; A Bel-PIC

ITALY (SHAFFER): F ION-Gre; A PIE S A Tyo-Ven; A Tyo-VEN;
A VIE S RUSSIAN A Gal-Bud

RUSSIA(KASSEL): F StPnc-NWY; F SWE S F StpNC-Nwy; F Nwy-NWG;
A Ukr-GAL; A WAR S A Ukr-Gal; A Gal-BUD

TURKEY (KENDTER Jr): F Smy-EAS; F CON-Aeg; F AEG-Gre;
A RUM S RUSSIAN A Gal-Bud; A GRE-Ser;
A BUL S A Gre-Ser

COA: Bill Shaffer, to 916 Larkspur Lane, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034.

No standby will be called for France, as he did write. Just no orders. All I can do is warn you, folks. I bend over backwards to make this a fast-paced joy for all, sometimes maybe bending a little too far, as some of you know. The rest is up to you.

Press on reverse.

DEADLINE for Fall, 1905, will be my mail received here Tuesday, May 30, 1978. (Monday is a holiday). I intend to return to Monday deadlines, so be forewarned that a 13-day deadline will necessarily be coming up, probably your Spring 06. That will make issue 14 coming due ~~May~~ June 12.

Finally, here are some quick hints I've learned to simplify conditional orders/builds. Often, a long consideration will show you that only one or two at most key items affect your plans. One person once requested/voted for a separation, then later wrote to say heck-with-it, it didn't matter to his orders in the end. Predicate your orders on these keys, then, and list conditionals for only the units involved. List non-involved units' orders under an "In all cases" heading. If you have conditions for, say, buildin A MOS or F MOS, you needn't re-do the whole list for each possibility: just list an order for BOTH. I'll delete the nonexistent one, or if I'm asleep, underline it with NSU. No problem. You'll find like me, I think, that it really isn't as hard in the end as it seems.

PARIS: I know nothing! Nothing! Kendter, I'm sorry, but I will not do as you request. You lied to me once, and that's enough.

(No dateline) Could the horse's ass possibly be Lee Kendter, Jr??

KIEL: NMRs are devastating to alliances.

DENMARK: Meatballs on parade report: An exclusive. A new Russo-German alliance was concluded here today. Let others beware.

GERMANY-RUSSIA Probably true, yes.

MUNICH French wine is really great. Especially in Burgundy. You'll love it there. Dispatch troops.

SWITZERLAND (Another in a series) Analysts noted a sharp rise in Russian tobacco futures, promised by future availability of Turkish blends.

ANKARA: Austria may survive if she becomes my complete vassal.

RUHR: Existentialism does not belong in Diplomacy. From this conclusion there is NO EXIT.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN Does KS stand for King-Sized press?

SWEISS: France wakes up, but not in time.

Italy to STABS: We intend to keep up the good work.

BERLIN: Diplomacy players are not allowed to have a conscience, right? So why do we feel guilty?

GERMANY: We would like Mr Shaffer to get lost.

BENSENVILLE: So what's wrong with the neutron bomb?

LIVERPOOL (press conference in progress). "Mr Prime Minister, is it true that you kissed Russian ass?" "I believe you are referring to a foreign communique from Moscow recently made public. The actual question is whether or not I courted Russian mercy. This is untrue. In 1902 we sent an apology to Mr Kassel for our indiscretion in the ill-fated northern campaign. This was done, not to curry favor, but merely to alleviate whatever hard feelings may have existed. Our apology apparently went unheded. We knew even then that Russia would ultimately attack us--as that was the logical progression from Scandinavia. Therefore, the Russians are mistaken when they claim "The spring will bring a big surprise..." It is regrettable that Mr Kassel sees fit to add insult to injury by calling us dogs and implying that we underestimated his ability. We are not in the habit of considering our opponents fools...except, of course, in Mr Grabar's case. We have sent Mr Kassel yet another letter of explanation along with a thesaurus of derogatory animal names. We hope he can add a bit more flash to his writing by using other words such as "horses ass", "pig-dog", "Swine", and "Turkey" in addition to "dog". "Mr Prime Minister, how would you characterize England's current international status?" "This is Liverpool's finest hour...till the Beatles"

78 AX

WINTER 1901

Austria: Builds A BUD, A TRI
 England: Builds F LON
 France: Builds F BRE, F MAR
 Germany: Builds A BER
 Italy: Builds A VEN, F NAP
 Russia: Builds F STPnc, A MOS
 Turkey: Builds F SMY

SPRING, 1902

AUSTRIA (LUKOW): A BUD S A Vie-Gal; A Vie-GAL: A SER-Bul; F Gre S A Ser-Bul/d/r ALB;
A TRI-Ser
 ENGLAND (HUESTON): F MAO-Spasc; F Lon-ENG; F NTH S F Lon-Eng; A Nwy H
 FRANCE (HUNT): A BEL-Bur; F PIC-Eng; F BRE-Mid; A Spa-GAS; F MAR-Spasc
 GERMANY (CHRISTOPHER): A HOL H; F Den-KIE; A BER S F Den-Kie; A BUR-Mun
 ITALY (KIRCHNER): A Tyo-BOH; A Ven-TYO; F Nap-ION; F TUN S F Nap-Ion; A MUN-Kie
 RUSSIA (KASSEL): F STPnc H; A Mos-UKR; A RUM-Ser; F Sev-BLA; F SWE-Nwy; A WAR-Gal
 TURKEY (WORKMAN): F AEGS A Bul-Gre; A Bul-GRE: A CON-Bul; F Smy-EAS

FALL, 1902

AUSTRIA: F ALB S A Ser-Gre; A Ser-GRE; A Tri-SER; A BUD S A Gal; A Gal S ITALIAN
A Boh-Sil/NSO/d/r Vie, Otb
 ENGLAND: F Mid-POR; F NTH S F Eng; F ENG S GERMAN A Hol-Bel/NSO/; A Nwy H/d/r Fin, Otb
 FRANCE: F PIC S F Bre-Eng; F BRE-Eng; F Mar-SPasc; A GAS-Bre; A BEL-Bur
 GERMANY: NMR! F KIE, A HOL, A BER, A BUR H
 ITALY: F ION-Aeg; F Tun-TYN; A Mun-SIL; A Tyo-MUN; A BOH S A Tyo-Mun
 RUSSIA: F STPnc-NWY; F SWE S F STPnc-Nwy; A Ukr-GAL; A RUM & A WAR S A Ukr-Gal;
F BLA S A Rum
 TURKEY: F EAS-Ion; F AEG S A Gre; A Gre S RUSSIAN A Rum-Ser/NSO/ann.; A Con-BUL

(ROBERT SERGEANT called to standby for Germany, should he choose to accept)
 1902

Austria: Home, Ser, Gre	5	ever*
England: Home, Nwy , POR	4	ever*
France: Home, Bel, Spa	5	even
Germany: Ber, Kie, Hol, Den	4	even
Italy: Home, Tan, Mun	5	even
Russia: Home, Swe, Rum, Nwy	7	build one
Turkey: Home, Bul	4	1 ann., build one
Neutral: Por	0	
	34	

ROVING REPORTER "Within the last year real estate values : have skyrocketed in this mountainous region--Galicia. Located between the frontier of Poland and Hungary, thousands of Poles and Hungarians flock here seeking more open space. Until now there have been no means of regulating this migration, but both the Polish and Hungarian governments feel they are close to a settlement.

VIENNA: While officials are somewhat relieved that the thousands of Italians on route to this area took the left fork in the road, many area businessmen are upset! It seems many businesses have now overstocked many items. One solution offered by Councilman Willie Findit was to transport this surplus to the Galician territory where the demand is ever increasing. The Austraiian government has offered its assistance by allowing the Army to transport any or all materials to Galicia th Spring.

TRIESTE--No, no, Randy. I thought everyone knew not to believe anything Eric says. Some people can't be trusted, you know.

(No dateline) Same bathroom wall in G.R. "Of course he's not Catholic! If he was he'd be at Notre Dame, not the USAF Academy!"

ANKARA-VIENNA: Everything was OK until that letter demanding Bulgaria by Spring 1904.

ANKARA-- (IIP) Sultan Ben Buckley today sharply criticized the United States of America for vilations of basic human rights. Armed with a series of reports on the suffering in the states, the Turkish leader promised a number of briefings to the media on the intolerable conditions in that backward, non-European nation.

The most obvious abuse of personal liberty, Ben Buckley charged, is the annual income tax. According to the Sultan, investigators coerce the citizens into revealing how much money they earned in the past twelve months. After forcing this information from the enslaved people, the United States compels each person to contribute a percentage of his income to the national treasury.

"What an outrage!" Ben Buckley asserted. "In return for that cash stolen from them, all the people get ~~is~~ is a stable, open government that admits its mistakes and actually tolerates irresponsible criticism. The United States government even tries to feed those unable to work in addition to providing the basic ^{governmental} services (such as building roads). Imagine such waste of national wealth."

The Sultan explained that the conditions were much better in his nation where everyone was free to starve on his own merits. "What an incentive to keep from being blind, old, ill, or injured," he exclaimed.

Ben Buckley urged human rights activists not to despair. Agents of Turkey already are at work in America, he stated. These "truth squads" will work to spread a public demand for better treatment by seizing upon and publicizing human goofs and errors unavoidable in a country run by average people.

Ben Buckley concluded his first report on American violations by proudly showing an example of the agents work reprinted, now with permission, from Conservative Digest.

78AX PRESS fall()

VENICE Last season Count Lotsa d'Pasta noticed some foreign news articles full of libel that hinted that he couldn't be trusted. Actually, the Count is rather proud that it's already F'02 and he hasn't lied to anyone yet! (A few choice silences, maybe...) Anyone who can furnish written proof of an Italian lie need only send it, and he will receive one (1) supply center free of charge. I'm confident you can't do it! This offer void where prohibited by law.

SMYRNA --What's the Pope's problem? We're getting him 100 new converts each day. Isn't that enough for the old cadaver, err...I mean cadet.

From "Intellectual Poems", Vol 2, published by Instant Insanity Press, Ankara:

There once was a man name of Eric
Whose diplomatical skills were a wreck.
While promising peace
And friendshiply feast
His nose would expand like a derrick.

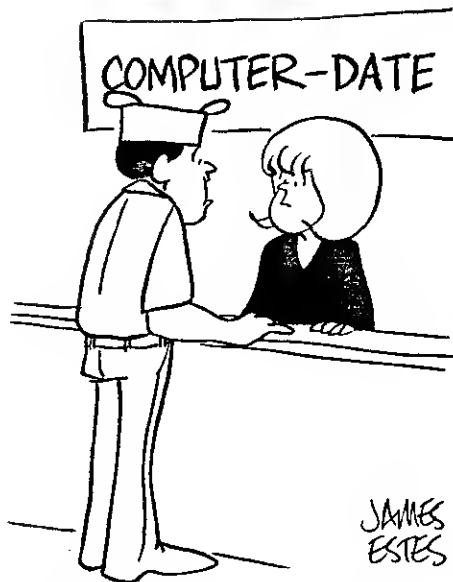
MOSCOW Today Austria, tomorrow the World!!

VIENNA-ANKARA That wasn't 1904, it was Winter '06!

ROVING REPORTER: It seems the Italians have become addicted to skiing! More and more tourists flock to the Alps each year. The Austrian and German governments have not yet imposed any restrictions on this migration, but this reporter thinks something must be done soon!

ST PETE-EDINBURGH: I told you!

the lighter side



JAMES
ESTES

"I want a girl just like the girl that married dear old dad."

Points of View

The grasshopper, who was worried about the coming winter, sought advice from the cockroach.

"Simple," said the cockroach. "At the first frost, find a warm spot behind a radiator and turn yourself into a cockroach, and stay there until spring."

"But how," asked the grasshopper, "do I turn myself into a cockroach?"

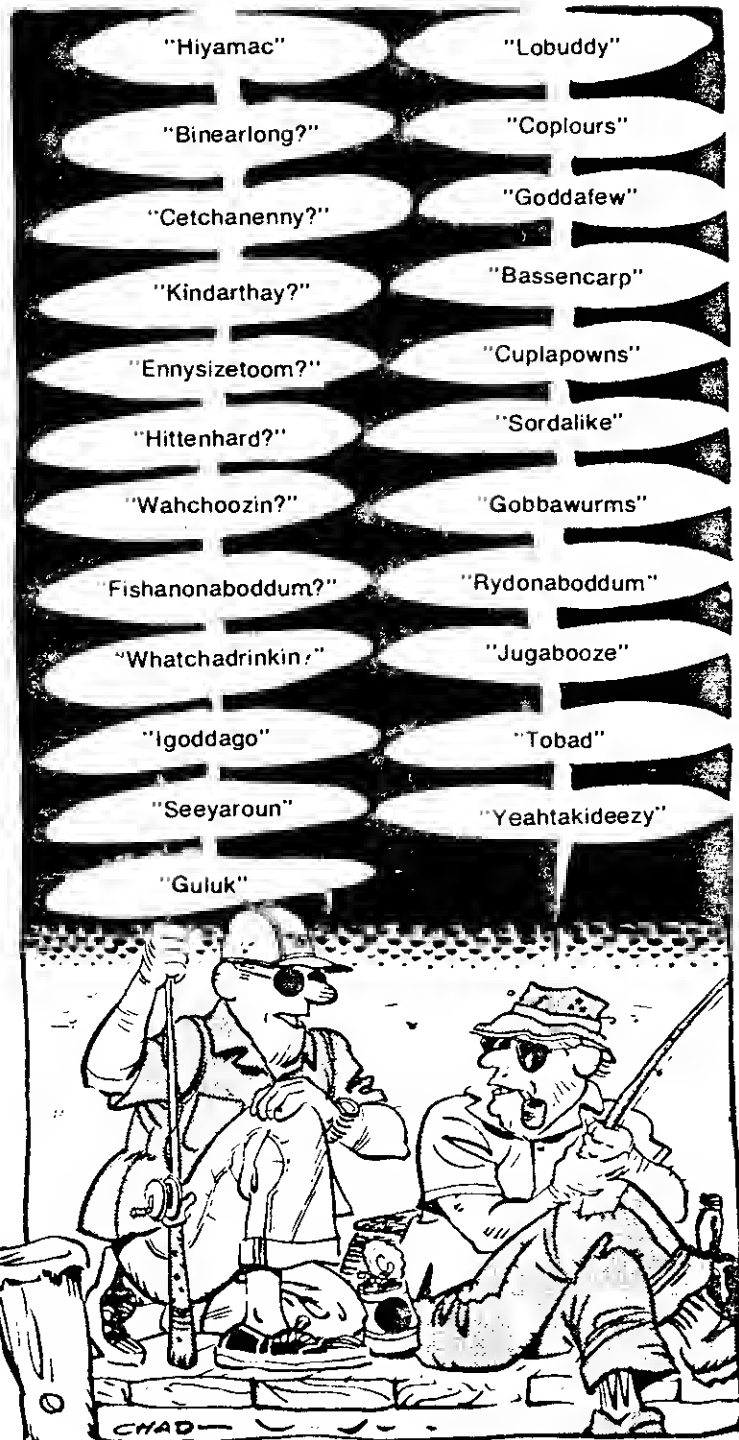
"Look," said the cockroach, "that's not my problem. I'm merely giving you policy guidance."

"If there is anyone here who knows why these two should not be joined in wedlock, let him speak now or forever hold his peace," intoned the minister.

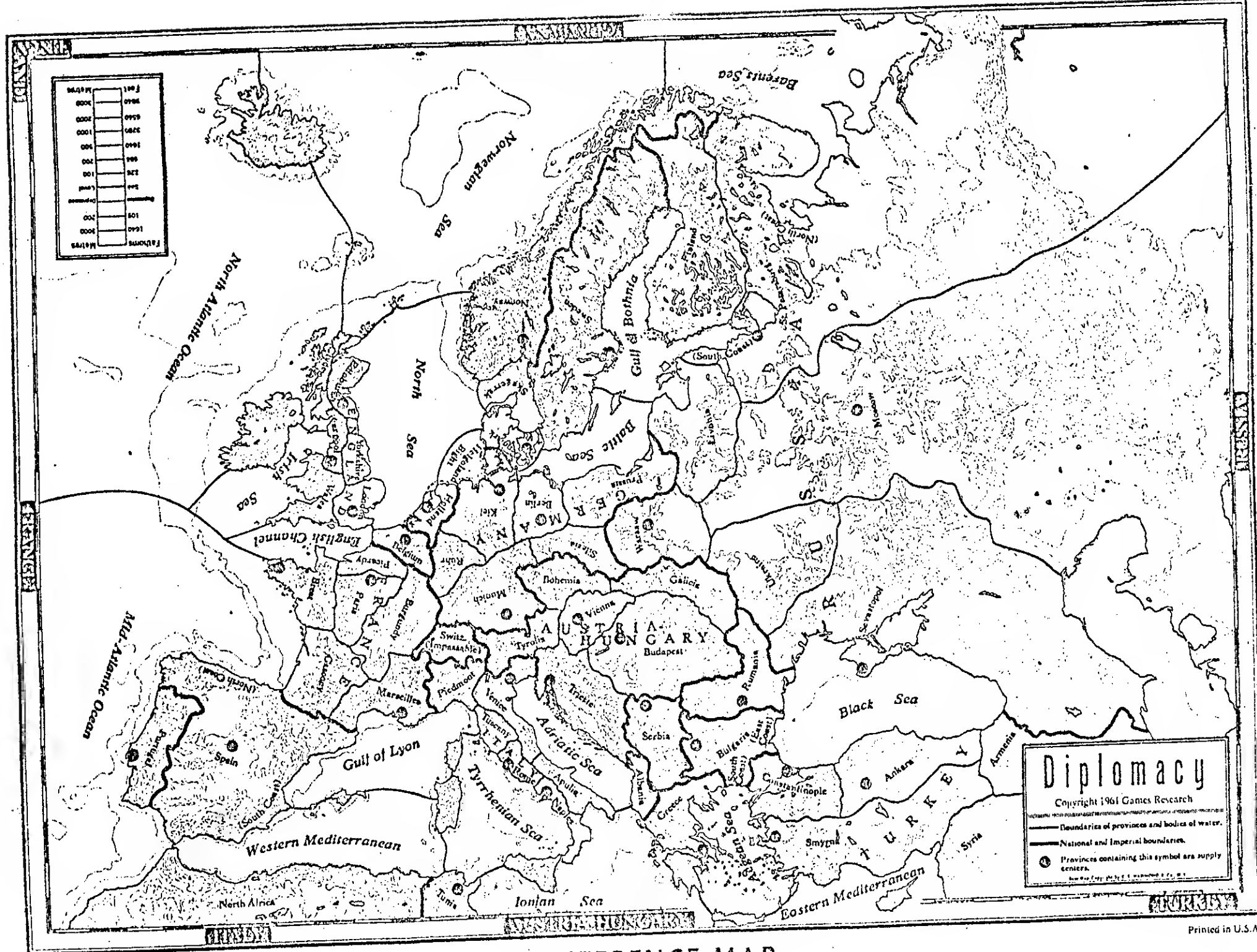
"I'd like to say something," volunteered a voice.

"You keep out of this," replied the minister. "You're only the groom."

The State of the Language When Two Fishermen Meet



From the Sentinel, Fort Drum, N.Y.



Below is a letter recently received from a friend of mine (Ronald Mazurkiewicz) reviewing two books. I have edited it slightly, but present it here both for the coverage it gives and the points it raises.

I have just read two books which you should absolutely read if you have any interest in WWII. HITLER'S WAR and ON THE TRAIL OF T. . DESERT FOX, both by David Irving. He is a bit controversial at this time because of his contention that there is no evidence that Hitler knew of any extermination program, but the real reason for reading his books is the mass of new information he has dug up. He has gone to original documents and contacted people who were never interviewed in all these years. His major accusation is that most of the historians doing work on Hitler and Rommel have either been too lazy to search for the people involved or the documents themselves, or they are unable to read handwritten German! He got hold of all of Hitler's surviving secretaries, adjutants, and doctors, interviewing them and examining the diaries he says nearly everyone kept. One of his important points on historiography, apparently frequently forgotten, is that although people may lie and twist things at the time, contemporary records cannot be made to fit into after-the-fact interpretations or distortion the participant could not predict at the time. He shows the original OKW Kriegstagebuch ((High Command's daily War Log)) has Hitler afraid of a Soviet counterattack against the Rumanian Armies at Stalingrad in 1942-- and the General Staff and Halder assure him there's nothing to worry about! The winter clothing in 1941 in Russia has also been twisted about. All during the fall of '41, Hitler is asking about the preparations for winter clothing--and is assured it's all being taken care of. It's a blockbuster of a book, just revelation after revelation, page after page. It turns out most of the post-WWII German general's memoirs are all fakes. Irving quotes an OSS hidden-microphone recording made while all the big boys were confined in barracks for the war crimes trials in 1945. They got together with Halder leading the way and agreed they would blame all the defeats on Hitler by claiming he would never let them retreat! I just couldn't believe it.

The Rommel book is even more amazing. Rommel comes across as a real fool. He gets his reputation in WW I&II fighting Italians, Rumanians, and then French--all opponents more than ready to run away. When he meets up with some determined resistance, he just loses all self control

and reasoning ability. OKW was ready to relieve him after he slaughtered his troops in front of Tobruk while turning in hysterical reports and court-martialing people he recommended for Knight's Crosses the same day. After El Alamein, he completely cracks and turns into a super-defeatist. Even the Italians got sick of retreating and wanted to hold Tripoli!

But there are even bigger surprises in this book. It turns out that the Allies are getting terribly detailed intelligence info from their use of the German Enigma ((coding)) machine. Whenever Rommel would ask in panic if he was going to get any gas, Rome would send a coded message telling where and when the tankers would leave and arrive—and the British subs would sink them there. My gosh. In fact the only time Rommel really pulls off a surprise of any kind is when he tells Hitler he will obey orders, and then goes off and does his own thing! You bet the British are caught off guard. It really makes me mad to find this out after the years and years of snotty British memoirs about how they just out-thought Rommel. Montgomery in Tunisia has some really snotty accounts of some battle where he has 600 AT guns placed in a valley he "just thought" Rommel would attack through. What hypocrites.

When we get on to Normandy, things get even worse. After reading these two books, (a friend) and I are half convinced that the real reason Germany lost the war was traitors. From again consulting documents compiled at the time, Irving shows what was going on. Hitler figured Normandy was the spot all the time while Rommel, Rundstedt (a real fool, by the way), and Canaris keep saying Pas de Calais. Hitler orders a division to Normandy in the spring; THEY send it to Brittany instead, and never tell him! Rommel's adjutant is one of the big July conspirators. The German intelligence service had found out about the music code to warn the Resistance—but Speidel didn't pass the word on! When the invasion comes, our present account is all lies. Hitler had allocated two panzer divisions to counter-attack immediately any attack in Normandy. Speidel doesn't even tell Rommel there is an invasion for 5 hours, and doesn't pass the word on to Hitler for another 5 hours. He makes the decision to keep the panzerdivision back, and when Hitler orders them in, sends in just the junky 21 Panzer (French

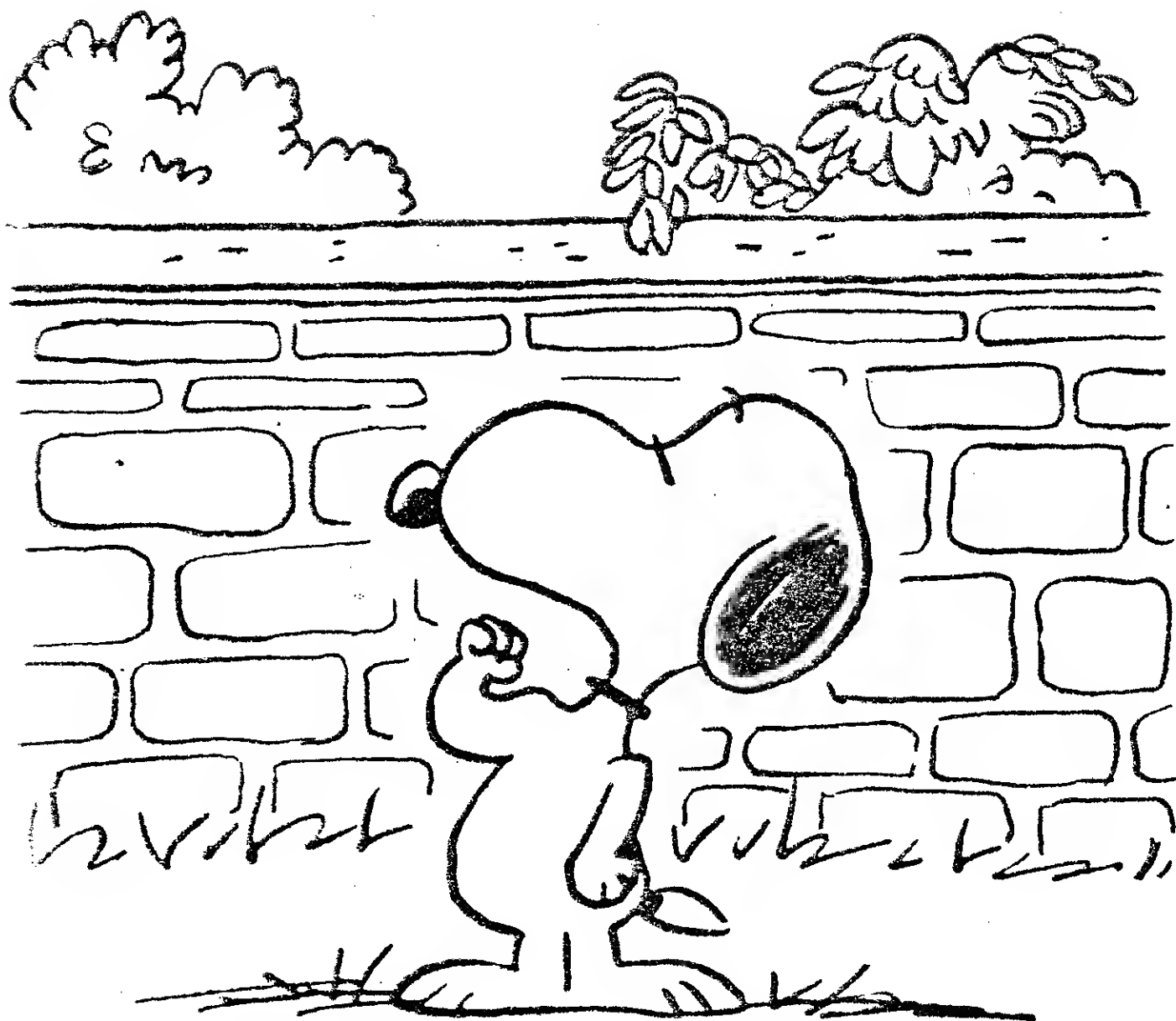
tanks, etc.) and holds back the well-equipped 116 Panzer. Why? They are keeping the 116th back to move on Paris and round up the SS and Gestapo when Stauffenberg does his performance*. The 116th commander, von Schweppenburg, was still furious thirty years later. Speidel gets rewarded with CinC of the Bundeswehr in the fifties. During the fighting in July, they keep back supplies until the Allies break out. ((break in text)) Buy these books!

((Last year, when the initial story on the Enigma code-breaking became known, I expected a wave of "revisionist" books to follow. Frankly, I've been disappointed, but then, the original story may have been overblown anyhow. It would appear that the Enigma-gained information was like hearing the huddle call in a football game: knowing what the other side planned to do can't stop that offensive line. On the other hand, it could have very great impact on given plays if you knew which receiver was to get the ball, and the shipping notes Ron brings up bear this out. It would appear that the war at sea was more affected than anything else. Do you remember the rapid and complete destruction of the "milk cow" supply U-boats, for instance? They were invariably attacked when other boats were alongside as well. I'd always been suspicious of that, as were the Germans.

Much of his story really may not be new. I myself recall the victory euphoria that inexplicably seized the Halder-level types when the summer of '42 brought quick gains against the Donbas vs. token opposition. Also, others have reported that the music code was broken, as the Allies figured it would be in a program that size. However, the Allied response was to bury the Axis intelligence under so many phony "secrets" that if/when the real one turned up, it wouldn't be recognized amid all the others. Apparently that worked. The use of the 116th is something I hadn't considered, and sounds plausible. A general in on the July 20 plot might well do such a thing, even in the face of confirmed landings. On the other hand, I'd always heard that the 116th was one of the most un-reliable units at the front—Second Pz or Das Reich (2SS) were the goodies, back near Argentan and Rouen, as I recall. Anyhow, I won't split hairs. The invasion message delay may well have been due to the Allied deceptions and simple bureaucratic bungling, although again, treason may well have played a part. One of the potentially devastating items; though, is the note about Halder et.al. in custody. If the no-retreat item is only an excuse cooked up after the fact in large part, what impact would THAT have on the "textbook" view of the war?

Overall, they sound as if they have great potential interest, but may be too sensationalist oriented. Finally, I'd like to add that Ron wrote this as a letter to ME, and therefore wrote assuming a considerable level of background knowledge already present. Thus, he cannot be rightly faulted for any lack of elaboration. I in turn present this for what I hope is its considerable discussion value to people interested in WWII.))

* The July 20 assassination plot.



VvV2Vv

JUST THINK! I WAS ONCE A
NINE CENTER WEAKLING!

Solution to the Square Root Problem

	a	b	c	d
1	**	**	**	**
2	*			
3	<u>*</u>	**		
4		**		
5		**	**	
6		**	**	
7		*	**	**
8		*	**	3*
				0

Step 1: a = 3. This is because line 1 is a two digit number while line 2 is a one digit number.

Step 2: b = 1. This is because line 4 is a two digit number. If b is bigger than 1 line 4 would be three digits.

Step 3: The smallest that the square root can be is 3163 since $3162 \times 3162 = 9998244$ which only has seven digits.

Step 4: Only one number between 3163 and 3199 has a 3 as the next to last digit of its square. The search is made shorter by the observation that only numbers ending in 4 or 6 have an odd digit as the next to last digit of its square.

Step 5: The number is 3194. The square is 10201636 and everything else can be worked out.

Dear John,

I typed up the solution so it would be readable. *((Thanks!))*
It probably won't get there in time for the May 15 issue.

((True, but since I'm going whole hog on this issue, I'll run it anyway. On your trip to Tennessee, yes, stop on in. We're just south of I40, maybe 10 mi on I 35. Leave here at 8AM and you'll arrive in Memphis about 5PM or so. Take it from there.))

((Here's another last minute filler item from one of John Mirassou's old SAYA-DASTI-SAYA...etc. that I hope will come out better than a lot of the other sheets of his in this issue have. John is at Rt 2, Box 623AC, Morgan Hill, CA 95037))

((I should have put KN on the other side of Dave's answer, but, organization isn't my forte in BB --))

What does one do with two pages full of blank. I've got it! A Do-it-yourself belt buckle kit. (What's a buckle you might ask. Good question, he replied. But does it really matter? It did help fill up some two lines or so to spell it that way.

Instructions.

1. Cut out belt buckle pattern.
2. Go to store and purchase one block of iron, and one length of leather, the length depending on how long your length is.
3. Take block of iron. Melt away anything that doesn't look like the pattern.
- 8 4. Perma-bond the iron to the length of leather.
5. Wrap length of leather around your middle. (Put your pants on first, stupid.)
6. Fasten leather with safety pin.
7. Let go.
8. Pull pants back up, and go to the store and buy a decent belt.

PATTERN 1



"Ditto never looks
as nice as it
should."

- J.P. Xerox

Don't ask me what this page is supposed to be, whether it is a feeble attempt at humour or what. I think it was mainly an excuse to see if the YES emblem would turn out or not. Or maybe it's just wasted space. But then, you could be getting a warehouse (I'm spelling well tonight) mine, couldn't you. All right freakos, here's today's issue. A rum-Ser falls. A Bul-Gre, A Mun-Aie, F Nth-H. Supply centers, 6,5,7,10,9,-8. Build one, remove one NMR, blah blah blah. No Press. Hockey Scores: 2-1, 4-2, 6-3. And heres a partial score: 5. Wheeeeeee. No, Thanks.

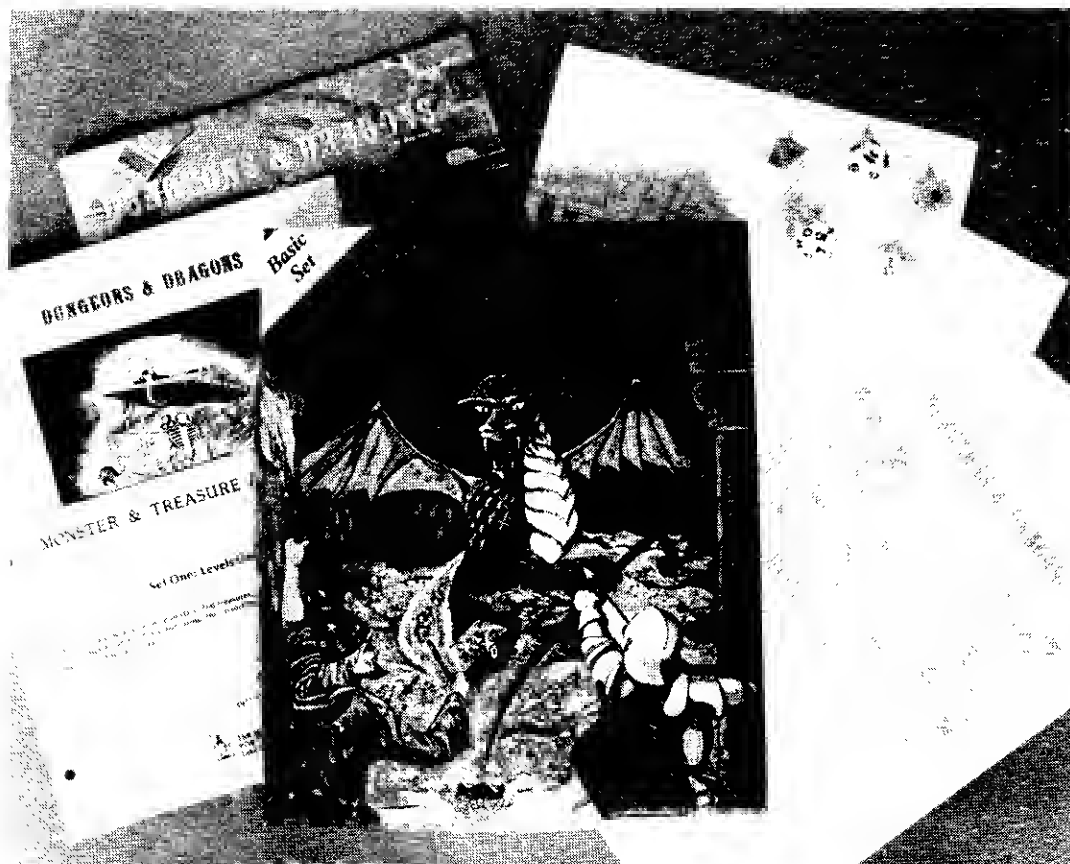
BASIC

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LETTERS

12734 - 11th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177
((Bill NEWELL Jr))

26 April 1978

Hi John --

Iotta strangle you for using legal length paper again. Walt isn't the only one who's filing system gets screwed up by such chicanery. With all the blank space in bits and pieces throughout the zine, couldn't you do a little consolidation and get the stuff onto good ol' 8 1/2 x 11? Other than that minor complaint, EP continues to look just great. Kepp the gossip items and the letters flowing. I'll have some more of the latter as soon as I catch up on a few other projects.

I noticed the standby call. Orders are enclosed, as is some press, which you can run if you wish even if I don't get into the game. I haven't actually written it yet as I type this, but I feel in a bizarre mood tonight, so be forewarned. I will scream if you edit me for any reason other than obscenity (if you don't get it don't worry about it, you're better off not knowing. And that admission from me, a staunch conservative!) or irrelevance. Insults directed at the gamesmaster are always relevant and are not to be touched. You are, of course, always welcome to counter-press me (i.e. start a war) if you desire. I love feuds, especially the fake ones.

A little explanation is in order regarding what you see on the reverse side of this sheet. I am taking a crash course in assembly-language programming for Prime 300 systems, and our instructor let her imagination run wild in describing the first project. Basically, she was given a program by an employee of Prime last fall, which was purported to be error-free but wasn't. Six months and forty students later, and the bloody thing still doesn't work. I guess I will have to end the madness and debug it myself. Your readers might enjoy it simply as a sample of good press.

I must now throw in what little I know about the ongoing march of Star Wars. According to the 1 March 78 issue of Variety, George Lucas has drafted the storylines to twelve (12) sequels. The whole series is under the working title "The Adventures of Luke Skywalker", but no title was given for the first sequel already in production. Leigh Brackett is indeed doing the screenplay. The film will be directed by Irvin Kirshner ("The Flim-Flam Man" "A Fine Madness" "Eves"), with Lucas staying in the background as executive producer. The studio is not financing the picture; Lucasfilm Inc. is kicking in all \$10,000,000 of the current budget. It makes sense; why should he split the profits with anyone else?

Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, and Harrison Ford have all been signed for the new film; Alec Guinness has opted out. That pretty much kills the prequel theory, I guess. Technical and special-effects production is supposed to get underway this summer, barring no unforeseen scripting delays. The cast is not due to report in until the first of next year. Frankly, I would be surprised to see the bloody thing out before Christmas 1979. Look how long it's taken Paramount to get rolling on the Star Trek film, and they have some of their people committed to renaming the project full time. Lucas reportedly has his fingers in several other pies, including (again according to Variety) a sequel to American Graffiti.

If I see anything else in the trades I'll pass it along.

Diplomatically

PS → Can you figure out the name of
the Prime employee? Answer nextish.

Bill

((On Guinness: a prequel
would feature a much younger
Obi Wan Kenobi, and thus could
well be played by someone else
J. M.

Once upon a time not long ago, in the Quarter of the Fall, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven, a stranger (who shall be known as Lucky Lady), wandered into Land of the Prime with a Problem to be solved. Not understanding the PMA Language used in the Land of the Prime, Lucky Lady sought out the wisdom and advice of the Scotsman who lived in a neighboring country called Land of the More and who was said to possess GIP (Great Interpretative Powers).

"Please, help me", cried Lucky Lady in great distress. "I have this Problem to be solved in Land of the Prime and I don't understand the Language used there."

The Scotsman of Land of the More patted Lucky Lady on the shoulder and said, "There, there" and promised the Problem would be solved within the hour. Weeks later, a Solution was available in the PMA Language and presented to Lucky Lady who gratefully accepted it and duly admired the Scotsman for his Great Interpretative Powers.

In the meantime, while waiting for the Scotsman's Solution, Lucky Lady had taught herself some of the Language and undertook to translate it to others who had wandered into Land of the Prime and also wanted to solve the Problem. Among these others were Marilyn the Magnificent, Learned Lynn, Just Jim, and Dollface. These and other Sharp Students of the Language obtained from Lucky Lady a copy of the Scotsman's Solution. But, lo and behold, the Solution contained errors of the type known as Bugs, and the Students of the Language languished. A cry went up and some left the Land of the Prime to go to Dropout Dumps, a faraway place where no learning goes on.

Those who remained gathered together with Lucky Lady in a special place and became known as NSCC (Novice Students of Camp Coughran). They immediately busied themselves in Bug Removal activities. Lucky Lady located some missing IOCS routines hidden in a place called Backup Disk; these were brought forward and made available to the Students. Several of the Sharp Students, such as Marilyn the Magnificent and Dedicated Doug, developed Bug-free Solutions to other (smaller) Problems using the Language and they were applauded. Based on shared knowledge gained along the way, many of the Bugs were eliminated from the Scotsman's Solution to the Number One Problem, and the Language became known.

ALAN ROWLAND

((P.O. Box 2173 College Station, Easton, PA 18042))

I'm afraid I have not been running an anti-religious commentary, though it would be interesting. The last controversy was Curt's discovery of the WFLPD (Westwood Front for the Liberation of Postal Diplomacy). The next one will be whether the players in 78AD are twits or merely incompetents. (4 NMR's!! Aaargh!) Another possibility is the upcoming election in two years; it should turn out to be an excellent Carter roast. Back home there has been some debate on whether I should start a series of contemporary topics, "Why women should be chattel"; "Hitler was right", etc. Personally, I think that's going a wee bit too far.

Next issue of the WARMONGER will be devoted primarily to Brew and Derelict-type things. I am in the process of designing a variant which pits brewing companies against each other to gain markets. Also, Rowland's Compendium of Drinking Games will include "Whales Tails", "Bizz Buzz Bang", "Zoom-Schwartz", rules on chugs and sloppy-sixties, "Fuzzy Duck", and "Thumper".

Well, I must be off. It's time for my daily run which will be followed by some brews and nurling.

((Always glad to hear from you. If 'MONGER declines the articles you mentioned, send them to me and I'll run them here. I'll bet they'd draw almost as good a response as Tony Watson's bedding-with-your-TA series. (Where are they, Tony?) I wonder what a 'thumper' is? That's the nickname I gained at the home of a girl I almost made the serious mistake of marrying once. Her parents called me "Thumper" because late at night they'd hear 'thump', 'thump' downstairs all the time. That was me attacking her, unfortunately to no avail. (She was a big girl and could handle herself all too well. Darn.))

J.M.

- She was from Beaver Co., PA, by the way

(AUTHOR DELETED)

In a monumental reversal of opinion, I have decided that without Black Press there probably wouldn't be any press at all. I've gotten over my bitter reaction to Black Press and now realize that it adds a fun dimension to the game.

RICK KASSEL

((984 Erie St Rd, Macedon, NY 14502))

As you know, I have yet to send in any press for any game I'm in. The reason for this is because I don't feel it is very important or useful the way it's run. Anyone can throw in whatever they want, even those not even in the game! What on earth for? My diplomacy is handled by direct contact with the parties concerned. I have no need for "press". Since you can't believe what's in it anyways, I usually just skim through it quickly, forgetting what I've read as soon as I've read it. If press could not be signed by someone other than the player owning the signed province or country, it would have some value. As it is, you can't believe anything you read, so why bother at all? I vote to outlaw Black Press in all three of my games. No outside contributions should be allowed either.

((I'll run both these letters together, as they answer each other in large part. Rick has been a consistent and staunch foe of black press, so I don't think that I'm letting any cat out of the bag by revealing his feelings, while the same may not be true of the first author. Rick is right to an extent in that KS, for instance, has SO MUCH press, black & white, that it may be wiping out some of its own value. On the other hand, it can be awfully funny and, I believe, can greatly enhance the fun and enjoyment of the game overall. In addition, of course, press can be another weapon in the player's arsenal. If you want to stab someone, for instance, you can blame it on adverse press on the stabbee's part directed vs. you. If none such exists, submit it yourself! You can also use it to try and stir up mistrust in another coalition and the like. Or, as Eric Kirchner knows, you can submit press to cover yourself, as I have in 77CW. There, my Russia is more or less a puppet to his Austria. With my SEV open adjacent to his units, I cover the center with press by announcing "to the world" that 'Sevastopol needs no garrison, for it is defended by the holy word of honor of the Austrian emperor, freely given', etc. That won't stop an order of A RUM-SEV, of course, but it WILL increase his embarrassment if he does so. It's

not much, but it's all I can spare for its defense. You're under no obligation to submit any, of course, but I think you're forgoing a valuable extra tool by not so doing. And...well, check the AFRICA dateline for KS last issue. If a picture is worth a thousand words, so can some samples be. I wouldn't worry much about outside press, for there are few enough people submitting press in their OWN games for there to be much danger of a non-player chipping in with some.)) J.M.

MARK BERCH

((492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304))

I'm very impressed by your survey. However, I must point out that "Reprinted articles" in 12 is ambiguous: Do you mean Dippy or non-dippy materials? Also, #7 should have specified postal or in-person or both. I would rank myself differently in postal than in in-person Diplomacy.

In other matters, I wouldn't get my hopes up too high on the IDA. I hear that Beyerlein has resigned as of 6 April, and that Baumeister will likely resign too. But things do look good for SF on TV. In addition to the "Galactica..." series, there will likely be a repackaging of some Buck Rogers episodes, and a four-part Martian Chronicles series.

In #7, I think that your House Rule Change #2 is poorly worded. It requires that you go for a neutral center, whether such a move is intelligent or not. Thus A Ukr S F Sev-Rum would be required, even if A Ukr S F Sev might be more intelligent. I think that what you mean is "Fall moves will not be directed to neighbor's home centers", but that's not what you said.

If it's all the same with you, I can do without the swastika, the photo of a Nazi official and any other loathsome reminders. It's very unpleasant to see this stuff staring at you. The right wing propaganda is one thing, but....

Your "Hobby News" in #10 is its usual excellent self, but could use a little tightening up at places. For example "This issue contains a couple of interesting things, the usual variety of stuff, and all sorts of ideas and suggestions...." Real informative, huh?

As for my zine, it is bigger. The 5½ x 8½ pages are just 8 x 11 pages shrunk down, so I now can give 11 or 12 pages of articles. Also, you've made occasional references to my recommending that you not accept phone calls. That's not quite what I said, which was that you should have one policy to apply to all persons. The best policy (from my perspective as a non-GM) would be to accept calls within certain hours/days but not to guarantee that you'll be home. As for Buchanan getting two copies, that's strictly a favor. You only get one copy of DW, right?

((On the dippy vs. non-dippy articles, someone else also mentioned this. I myself never even thought of it, for even now, I can only recall running one dip article, and wouldn't have run that if I'd known it had appeared in DW prior to its appearance in PURSUE & DESTROY. I've played one, and GM'd one FTF game in total, so again, a differentiation never crossed my mind. This being a postal Dipzine, I hope no one found that too troublesome. But, keep these letters coming; they keep me on my toes.

Paragraph 3: problems will be avoided because I will probably be the one to determine what a neutral, non-hostile move is. Facing Turks in Arm, Bla, Bul, I would likely go for Ukr S Sev, then wait for complaints from each side. On the other hand, even a move on Rum in this case might be wise: the Turk may be trying A Bul S A Arm-Rum, F Bla C, in which case both Sev and Rum would be saved from the Turk, per your example....

P #4. Another excellent example to me of the invisible pitfalls of publishing. When I ran the Chemical Analysis of Women, it seemed a totally innocuous piece to me; not so, Renny Christopher pointed out. Here's another example. To me, coming in from the wargaming world, swastikas and the like are almost without meaning anymore. I can think

LETTERS (cont'd)

of one eastern front game in which German units have either a swastika or an iron cross on each piece to denote which have a second-impulse movement ability and which do not. I personally APPRECIATE the designers extra effort for the little flavorings such as making SS units white-on-black, the same as I appreciate numbers on the road hexes in AFRICAN CAMPAIGN; they're purely functional and/or decorative. While older folks who lived through those days wouldn't appreciate that, few of them are into wargaming; ditto here. While smiling Herman appeared 'loathsome' to you, I would venture the guess that it was intended the way it struck me: a graphic example of the absurdity of gov't getting into the racial/ethnic standards business.* Someone in the JDL might find a picture of Yassir Arafat loathsome (and he isn't a very lovable-looking guy, is he?), remember that the difference between he and the Prime Minister of Israel today is that Begin's side was the more effective at terrorism, and won; Arafat's folks are still beginners, crude in operating, and thus losers. If we lived in a nation that supported the refugee camps of the middle east instead of one that supports the Israeli military machine, the popular image of these two could easily be reversed, could it not? While Fascism is disgusting to many here, let me quote you an answer Greg Costikyan put down on my survey form: Type of car you drive: "X" Don't drive, "and never will. Cars are Fascist". Now, what does Fascism mean to someone like THAT????

#5. It wasn't meant to be an informative review, but rather, a purely impressional note. Thus "a couple of interesting things" as opposed to "an issue I found to be chock full of interesting and useful items, cover to cover inclusive". But again, while its clear to ME, your comments do serve to remind me of the need to always try and think not in terms of expressing myself, but in expressing an idea over to someone ELSE. Thus my appreciation of what some might resent as your 'report-card' style, or even simply nitpicking.)) * i.e., what's more absurd than Goering?

READ THIS NEXT LETTER!

This is reprinted from the latest EVERYTHING (#39)

ROD WALKER

I'm not much given to doing much in the hobby these days, due to lack of time. However, something has crossed my desk which looks bad. I felt the word should be spread, so here it is.

There have been some recent announcements that a postal Dipzine named LA GUERRE was being started up by a Bernie Oaklyn, 781 Quince Orchard Blvd #12, Gaithersburg, MD 20760. DIPLOMAG #22, however, states that LA GUERRE is being revived by its old editor/GM/publisher, Buddy Tretick. It also turns out that Tretick lives at 781 Quince Orchard Blvd, #12, Gaithersburg, MD 20760. The conclusion is that "Bernie Oaklyn" either is Buddy Tretick or is a front for him.

For most of you, I need say no more. For those of you who were not around in the period 68-71, let me elucidate. Buddy Tretick was probably the least desirable GM ever to hit the hobby. As GM, he is known to have rewritten players orders, play in his own games (both under his own name and a pseudonym), make rulings directly contrary to all the rulebooks and in other ways behave in an irrational and erratic manner towards his games and player. It should also be noted that Tretick abandoned a large number of games. That's nothing new, of course; but those of us who have dropped games at least had the decency not to start new ones at the same time. During 69-71, however, Buddy dropped his active games repeatedly, with no explanation or repayment, and went on to start new ones...which were in turn abandoned. I do not contend that it is impossible for Buddy to have changed his ways. That would be uncharitable. However, I have it on good authority, from people who have played Diplomacy with him recently in the Baltimore area, that he has not changed one whit. We can therefore expect the same lunatic GMing in the "new" LA GUERRE that we had in the old one. The postal Diplomacy public should be alerted to the risks involved in joining a LA GUERRE game. A short announcement is being planned. Your comments and assistance will be appreciated. ((Cal White, BNC, to whom this was addressed, said

he'd watch the LG games closely. LG was plugged here some issues back, so I make a point of emphasizing Rod's letter here as well. I'd hate to have any of my readers get stuck.)) J.M.

((Here's some filler lifted directly from an old SAYA-DASTI-(etc.) which I'll run in memoriam to that zine which may not see much of in days to come...))

I was going through some books at school when I came upon this speech in one of them. I thought it was kind of funny (make that absurd) so I am reprinting it here. It's not necessarily a reflection of my views either way on the subject, I just thought it was kind of interesting. It was made by representative Thomas of New Jersey to the house of Representatives back when smoking banana peels had just become a fad.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently launched an investigation of banana peel smoking.

This was very good news to me, since I have been extremely concerned over the serious increase in the use of hallucinogenics of youngsters. Apparently, it was not enough for this generation of thrill-seekers to use illicit LSD, marijuana, and airplane glue. They have now invaded the fruit stand.

The implications are quite clear. From bananas it is a short but shocking step to other fruits. Today the cry is "Burn, Banana, Burn." Tomorrow we may face strawberry smoking, dried apricot inhaling or prune puffing.

What can Congress do in this time of crisis? A high official in the FDA has declared:

Forbidding the smoking of material from banana peels would require Congressional legislation.

As A legislator, I feel it my duty to respond to this call for action.

I ask Congress to give thoughtful consideration to legislation entitled, appropriately, the Banana and Other Odd Fruit Disclosure and Reporting Act of 1967. The target is those banana-smoking beatniks who seek a make-believe land, "the land of Honalee," as it is described in the peel puffers' secret psychedelic marching song, "Puff, the Magic Dragon."

Part of the problem is, with bananas at 10 cents a pound, these beatniks can afford to take a hallucinogenic trip each and every day. Not even the New York City subway system, which advertises the longest ride for the cheapest price, can claim for pennies a day to send its passengers out of this world.

Unfortunately, many people have not yet sensed the seriousness of this hallucinogenic trip-taking. Bananas may help explain the trancelike quality of much of the 90th Congress proceedings. Just yesterday I saw on the luncheon menu of the Capitol dining-room a breast of chicken Waikiki entry topped with, of all things, fried bananas.

An official of the United Fruit Co., daring to treat this banana crisis with levity, recently said;

The only trip you can take with a banana is when you slip on the peel.

But I am wary of United Fruit and their ilk, because, as the New York Times pointed out, United "stands to reap large profits if the banana smoking wave catches on." United has good reason to encourage us to fly high on

psychedelic trips. And consequently I think twice every time I hear that TV commercial-"Fly the friendly skies of United."

But let me get to what Congress must do. We must move quickly to stop the sinister spread of banana smoking. Those of my colleagues who occasionally smoke a cigarette of tobacco will probably agree with the English statesman who wrote:

The man who smokes, thinks like a sage and acts like samaritan.

But the banana smoker is a different breed. He is a driven man who cannot get the banana off his back.

Driven by his need for bananas, he may take to cultivating bananas in his own backyard. The character of this country depends on our ability, above all else, to prevent the growing of bananas here. Ralph Waldo Emerson gave us proper warning:

Where the banana grows, man is. . . cruel.

The final results are not yet in, however, on the extent of the banana threat. An FDA official has said that, judging from the 4 years of research needed to discover peyote's contents, it will probably take years to determine scientifically the hallucinogenic contents of the banana. We cannot wait years, particularly when the world's most avid banana eater, the monkey, provides an immediate answer.

We can use the monkey as a laboratory, seeing what effects bananas have on him. The FDA says it cannot tell if a monkey has hallucinogenic kicks; they think not. The problem, I feel, is seeing the monkey munch in its natural habitat. To solve this dilemma, I propose the Peel Corps, necessarily a swinging set of young Americans capable of following the monkey as he moves through the forest leaping from limb to limb.

On the homefront, I am requesting the President to direct the Surgeon General to update his landmark report on smoking and health to include a chapter on banana peels. In the meantime Congress has a responsibility to give the public immediate warning. As you know, because of our decisive action with respect to tobacco cigarette smoking in the United States is almost at a standstill. This is because every package of cigarettes that is sold now carries a warning message on its side.

Therefore, I propose the Banana Labeling Act of 1967, a bill to require that every banana bear the following stamp. "Caution: Banana Peel Smoking May Be Injurious to Your Health. Never Put Bananas in the Refrigerator."

There is, of course, one paractical problem with this legislation: banana peels turn black with age. At that point, the warning sign becomes unreadable. It may be necessary, as a consequence, to provide for a peel depository, carefully guarded, to protect the public from aged peels. I am now requesting of the Secretary of the.

7

Treasury that, given the imbalance of the gold flow, some of the empty room at Fort Knox be given over to such a peal depository.

As with any revolutionary reform movement, I expect the forces of opposition to be quite strong. One only has to look at the total lack of Federal law or regulation relating to bananas to realize the banana lobby's power. We have regulations of avocados, dates, figs, oranges, lemons, pears, peaches, plums, and raisins. But bananas have slipped by unscathed.

What we need across the length and breadth of this great land is a grassroots move to ban the banana, to repeal the peal. Howard Johnson's can survive with only 27 flavours. And what is wrong with an avocado split? I will only breath easier when this country, this land we love, can es-lare, "Yes, we have no bananas; we have no bananas today."

THEFIRSTPERSONIKNOWOFTOUSELINEARSEPARATORSLIKETHISWASCONRADVONMETZKE

That looks just about like the end of this issue. All I have to do is ramble on long enough to fill up the last half of this page, until I run over the address block.

Thank you everyone, thank you. What's that? You want to hear ~~caravan~~ with a ~~diem~~ solo? We'll get to that tomorrow night. Yes, thank you, thank you. No, ~~Kennit~~ the magic Kangaroo won't be here tomorrow night. No, he jumped town. Thank you, and good night America!

...What's that. There's still another two or three inches of space left. ~~Unlged~~, what do we do? I mean, the producers always had the show so well planned out. This never happened to us before. What do we do? I mean, do we have to give them a refund or something? Does anyone know how to tap ~~ganes~~ or something. Anything! We've got to keep them occupied, otherwise they might get ~~indient~~. All the heck with it. ~~Rein~~ tell them the truth. You might as well go home, we're a little short this month. There's no more jokes or articles, or anything. That's all.

Look, I told you once already. Go home. It's all over for this month. We've ~~don~~ all of our jokes, so you may as well go and read something else. ~~Buttut~~ Bullshit, or maybe Blue Hole. That's all we've got.

Monsters, Monsters, and More Monsters!

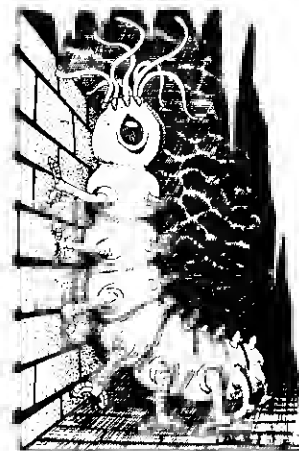
Here is a compendium of monsters, spirits, and minions that no serious **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS** enthusiast should be without!

The **MONSTER MANUAL** for **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS** is an encyclopedic listing of over 350 monsters for use with D & D, giving a background outline of each, a run-down of applicable specifications for game purposes (all in advanced format), and - - in many cases - - an illustration. This vast collection takes in a wide variety of listings, all in alphabetical order - - men of various classes, elves, dwarves, halflings, devils and demons, and a horde of fearsome creatures. This massive compilation embraces the listings of the **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS** game itself, the several supplemental booklets published previously, the numerous "creature features" appearing in back issues of **THE STRATEGIC REVIEW** and **THE DRAGON** magazines, plus a considerable number of new and fascinating creations.

To illustrate the completeness of the material in the **MONSTER MANUAL**, here is a sample listing of a single monster:

CARRION CRAWLER

FREQUENCY: *Uncommon*
NO. APPEARING: 1-6
ARMOR CLASS: 3/7
MOVE: 12"
HIT DICE: 3 + 1
% IN LAIR: 50%
TREASURE TYPE: B
NO. OF ATTACKS: 8
DAMAGE/ATTACK: *Paralysis*
SPECIAL ATTACKS: *As above*
SPECIAL DEFENSES: *Nil*
MAGIC RESISTANCE: *Standard*
INTELLIGENCE: *Non-*
ALIGNMENT: *Neutral*
SIZE: *L (9' long)*
PSIONIC ABILITY: *Nil*
Attack/Defense Modes: *Nil*



Carrion crawlers strongly resemble a cross between a giant green cutworm and a huge cephalopod. They are usually found only in subterranean areas. The carrion crawler is, as its name implies, a scavenger, but this does not preclude aggressive attacks upon living creatures, for that insures a constant supply of corpses upon which to feed or for deposit of eggs. The head of the monster is well protected, but its body is only armor class 7. A carrion crawler moves quite rapidly on its multiple legs despite its bulk, and a wall or ceiling is as easily traveled as a floor, for each of the beast's feet are equipped with sharp claws which hold it fast. The head is equipped with 8 tentacles which flail at prey; each 2' long tentacle exudes a gummy secretion which when fresh, will paralyze opponents (save versus paralyzation or it takes effect). As there are so many tentacles with which to hit, and thus multiple chances of being paralyzed, these monsters are greatly feared.

The **MONSTER MANUAL** features the original artwork of no less than 3 illustrators - - David C. Sutherland III, D.A. Trampier, and Tom Wham. Their work is showcased in over 200 drawings appearing throughout the book, in addition to a full color cover.

All in all, the **MONSTER MANUAL** runs to well over 100 pages of material, in 8½ x 11" format. And this volume sets new standards for quality, durability, and value as a game reference work, since it is **hard bound**. This makes the **MANUAL** useful and valuable for years to come. If you play D & D, you won't want to be without a copy!

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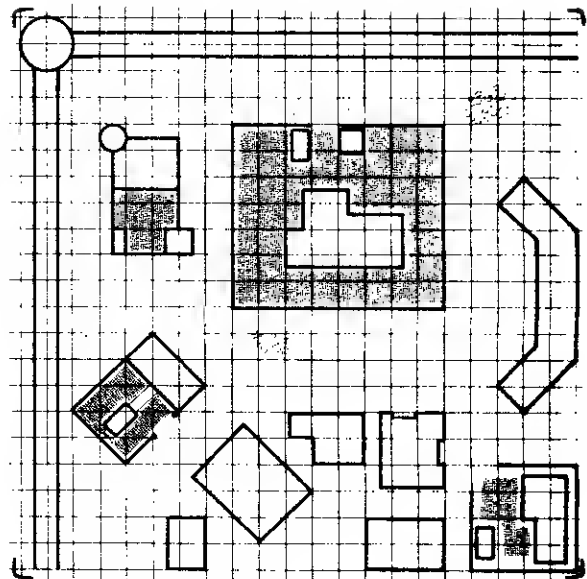
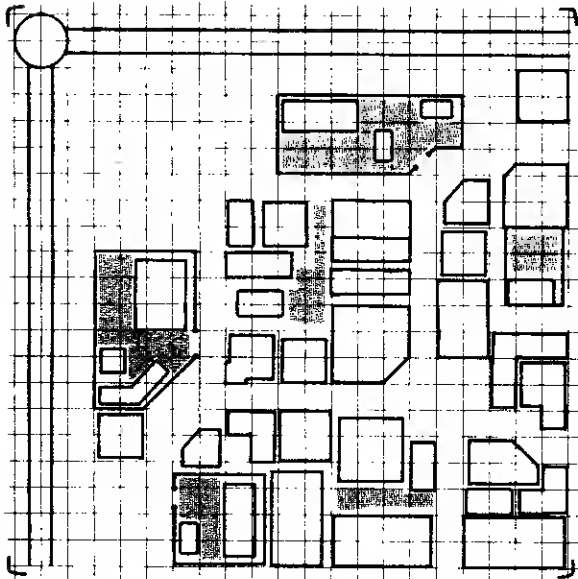
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Bureaucratic Blunders

The New York Department of Mental Hygiene has circulated an illustrated memorandum to its employees detailing the state-approved method of halving English muffins.

"Since the type of cut (fork-pried vs. knife-sliced) significantly affects the flavor and texture of the toasted product, we recommend the fork cut," director of Nutrition Services Jack Bellick wrote in the three-page memo. "It provides the 'peaks and valleys' symmetry necessary for maximum flavor and texture."

The memo details proper technique—"insrt the splitter into the side so that the second cut is perpendicular to the first cut"—and makes an exception: State employees can slice muffins with a serrated knife for lunchtime meals.

English muffins are new to Mental Hygiene menus and Bellick defended the memo, saying, "How are you going to break up 1,000 or more muffins fast? We could have all our people down there in the pantries opening muffins all day."

* *

Thomas F. Busacca, who has been subpoenaed for jury duty in the New York State Supreme Court, would be delighted to carry out his civic duty, his lawyer says, but there are problems. Busacca is in Dannemora State Prison, serving up to 25 years for killing his wife.

Busacca's lawyer said his client "was somewhat concerned about the admonition that his failure to appear might result in his being held in contempt of court." "Actually," the lawyer continued, "he will look forward to being picked up by the sheriff and brought from his present place of residence to jury duty."

Allen Roth

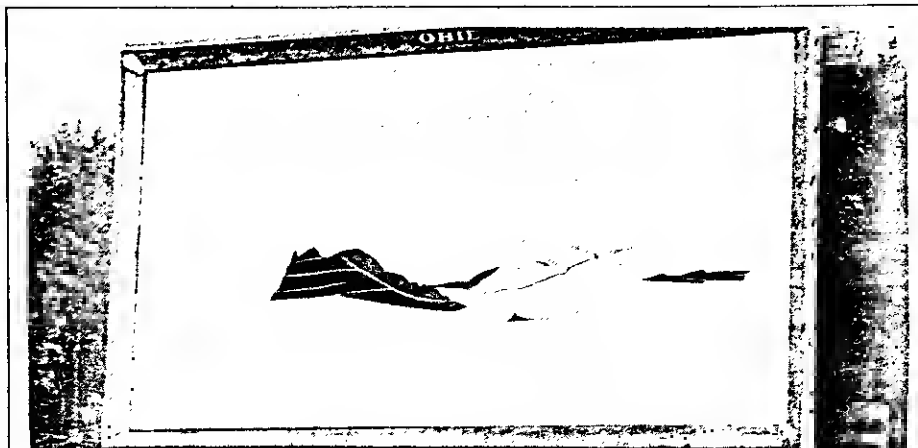
* *

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration awarded \$75,805 for a study of gambling. The resulting 934-page report concludes, among other things, that people who gamble in state lotteries face tremendous odds against winning.

Harold B. Johnson

* *

A new Michigan law bans the labeling of sausage made in the United States as "Polish sausage" and says instead it must be termed "Polish-style sausage." Which of the following phrases will Michigan outlaw next: Danish pastry,



Paul Macomber/Daily Courier, Grants Pass, Oregon

Government's Gift: This example of contemporary art graces the skyline of south Grants Pass thanks to funding from federal and state sources through the University of Oregon. This rendition of crumpled paper was among four works selected for display on billboards throughout the state to expose motorists to art.

French fries, Dutch apple pie, Cornish hens, Swiss cheese, Italian dressing, Chinese checkers, Hawaiian punch, haked Alaska, Canadian bacon, Swedish meat balls, English muffins, Brussels sprouts, Copenhagen snuff, German potato salad, Grecian Formula Nine, Labrador retrievers, Singapore slings, Spanish peanuts, Irish stew, Hungarian goulash, Bermuda onions, Norway spruce, Roman Catholics, Russian dressing, Panama hats, Scotch plaids or Venetian blinds?

Norman E. Duane

* *

The taxpayer wins one: New York State last year dropped its "revenue-producing" \$2 per year service station registration fee. In collecting the fees and mailing seven documents to each licensee, the Department of Taxation and Finance was spending \$50,000 yearly to collect \$28,000 in taxes.

David A. Pietrusza

* *

The Oregon State Textbook Commission has, in its fanaticism, decreed that the term "The Founding Fathers" carries a definite sexist bias. The commission recommended dropping the bigoted phrase from all books, but so far has not decided whether to toss all those containing it into a bonfire.

Donald J. Thomas

* *

HEW has a regulation that foreign-born doctors who practice in the United States be able to show they speak English

fluently. The idea is reasonable, but an HEW bureaucrat has turned it to absurdity. Velva, N.D. (pop. 1,500) has been trying to hire a British-born physician named Ian Foster, to replace the town's only doctor, who is retiring. But, HEW requires this native English speaker to take the Department's English language test, which is given only once a year, in September.

Dr. Foster, who practices in Canada, had passed North Dakota's physician licensing exams and signed a contract with Velva to start work last October. But he was forced to wait until the September, 1978, English exam before HEW would let him practice.

John L. Riordan

* *

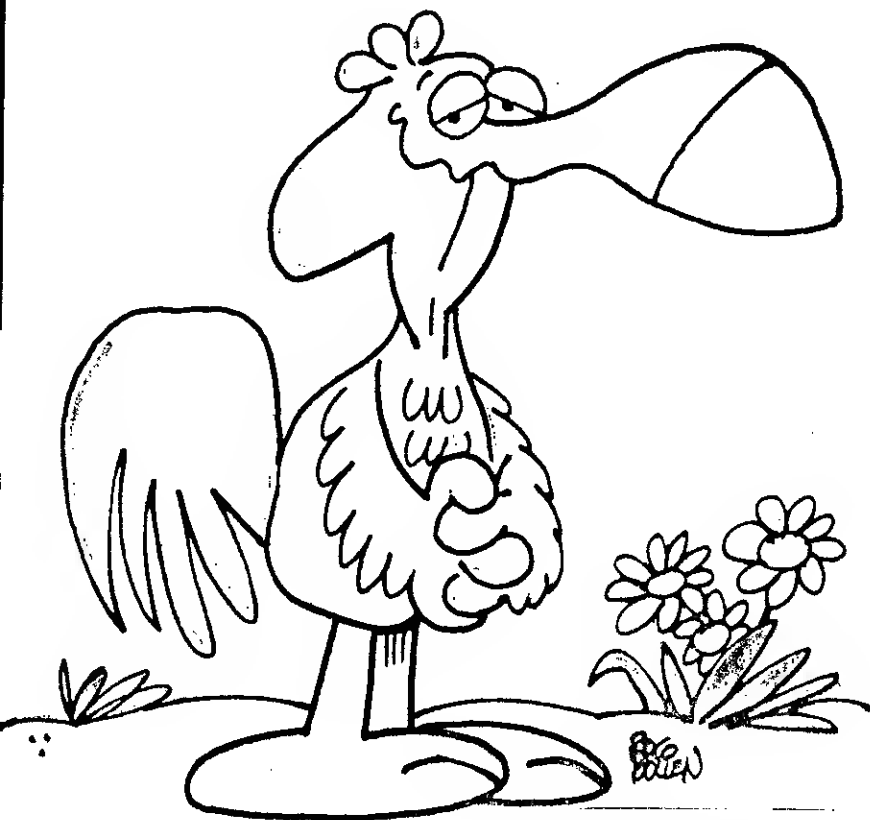
A \$60,100 grant made by the tax-supported National Science Foundation (NSF) is studying why people in Philadelphia have an accent different from people in other parts of the country. University of Pennsylvania professor, William Labov, who is doing the research, says "it's very useful for us to be able to map the changes in the English language." As for the way people talk in Philadelphia, Dr. Labov said: "In Philadelphia, words like tour, T-O-U-R, and tore, T-O-R-E, are pronounced the same."

Asked what application his study will have for taxpayers, Dr. Labov replied: "The (NSF) isn't supporting our work because it has these applications."

Roger Cook

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Conservative Digest May 1978



"PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR VOTES, FOLKS"

North American Zine and Gamesmaster Poll: We'll have another shot at this, and hope there'll be stronger participation this time. Other publishers are requested to print this in their zines in hope of getting wide circulation.

In order to participate: 1) List all the North American zines which you currently receive, giving each one a rating on a scale of 1-10 (1 being unspeakably bad, 10 superb). 2) List all the gamesmasters of games in which you are currently playing, giving each a rating on a similar scale of 1-10.

You may use whatever criteria you wish to arrive at your rating. If we get lots of entries, we should get an accurate overview of the tastes of the North American segment of the hobby.

Publishers may rate their own zines if they wish. Anyone getting a North American zine may participate, including overseas people.

I will tally the results at the end of June. Three months will be enough for this announcement to reach players and publishers who don't get RUNESTONE and give them time to get in a list. Oh yes, please sign your ballot and indicate your most recent relation to the hobby.

Please participate! Let's try and match the British level of activity this time....

From RUNESTONE 200, c/o

John Leeder
1211 NW 5 Street
Calgary, Alberta T2M 3B6
C A N A D A

LETTERS

"BOBCAT" BILL NEWELL

((12734 Eleventh Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177))

First off, the answer to Dave Scott's puzzle is 3194, which squared is 10201636. You heard it here, first!

I have an update on the Star Wars info I provided last letter. There is no specific source for this, beyond gossip making the rounds of the local SF fan groups. (It pays to have contacts.) Alec Guinness will not appear in the flesh in the sequel, but will provide voice-overs where required by the script. Just what implications this has on the projected story line is anybody's guess. Splinter of the Mind's Eye is not the sequel. It is out strictly to make money for its author. All other info quoted from Variety last time is correct.

I caught the adjudication error in 77 KN and was going to chide you on it, except I see a note in today's mail indicating you've already made the correction. Curse those players who send in order changes at the last minute (like ME)!!

A few comments about zine plugs. Back in February I wrote 31 North American publishers asking for sample copies of their zines. I assembled this list from plugs in the zines I received at the time (TNG, PDL, and Warmonger), and the game-openings list in DW 17. I sent cash to the Canadian pubbers and an SASE to those within the US. The point: as of this writing, a total of 23 have responded to my request in one form or another. All but one of these sent a sample. The return was about what I had expected, but very poor nevertheless. I feel that those people who advertise for subbers and/or new players should have the courtesy to respond to all resulting inquiries, especially when the respondent is paying the postage.

I will go so far as to list the names of the pubbers who did not reply: Mirassou, Neizer, Mann, Costikyan, Reif, Kovalcik, Schwartz and Wilman. An impressive list, eh? These are all people who have been well-established in the hobby for some time; no junior-high school fly-by-nighters here. What does this have to say about the solidarity of our hobby today? Are we adequately prepared to handle the new influx of players resulting from AH's marketing of the set? I'd say not, if one out of four novices writing for a zine sample are finding their requests ignored. What can be done?

Randolph Smythe has resurrected the Cepheids (I hope I spelled that right); he sent me a copy of the latest issue. I was quite pleased; this is exactly the thing a recent purchaser of the game wants to get his hands on. It even lists publishers' addresses, with current game openings noted by hand at the time of mailing. The only trouble is that Cepheids is now strictly a Canadian production and as such lists only Canadian pubbers. I thought IDA had a novice chairman. Why can't this person get copies of this zine, add a list of US publishers' addresses, and send them to people who write AH asking about postal Diplomacy? This would be a lot faster than spending \$4 for a sub to DW, waiting five months for an issue, picking a pubber's name at random off the list, sending him an SASE, and then getting nothing! You have a few IDA people on your mailing list; I hope that if you print this you will note my address so they may write me if they feel so inclined. Feel free to add your own comments, if necessary.

By the way, I entered that long diatribe in response to your plug for Black Hole, which I have yet to see.

((cont'd))

I saw Ben Grossman's letter to Jimmy Carter and interpreted it much differently than you did. I find it disturbing that our military system continues to pour R&D money into atomic weaponry when those we already have have proved themselves sufficient to wipe out hundreds of thousands of people at a single stroke. So now we can do it and still leave the buildings standing. Big deal. Was this refinement worth the expense to the taxpayers? Shouldn't this money have been used to improve our defense against the other guy's bombs?? What good is our ability to wipe out an invading enemy if our children will not be around to enjoy the peace we sacrificed ourselves for?? I consider myself a conservative, John, but there are times when I think some of my philosophical fellows go a bit overboard, and the neutron bomb is a good example.

I can't resist this:

There was a young poet named Simon,
Who couldn't resist writing 'rhyming',
His poems would tend
To suddenly end

((Lot of letters like this and I'll have to run all my games outside the mine! That's OK. First, I'm glad someone took some time to give the puzzle a try; contributors appreciate that, I know. In regard to SPLINTER, I'm glad it's not the sequel basis, as it really isn't quite up there. Tony Watson will review it soon in RURITANIA, and I'll reprint the review here, but from correspondence with him, he wasn't overly impressed with it either. On plugs, you're right. Also, I WITHDREW my plug of Black Hole some issues back due to its having sunk the way it has. I expect to win 76IK within its pages, but despite a fall deadline of April 23, as I recall, no results here as yet. (I'm writing this May 10, which, to take a page from Robert Lipton's style, is the anniversary of the German breakthrough at Sedan in WWII. Lipton uses SF authors' birthdays and the like, though). John Mirassou will not likely publish further, per his reasons in a letter in a recent BE (and reprinted in AGAINST THE ODDS 7); Costikyan seems to run about two issues every three months, and thus may yet get to responding when the summer issue of Urf Durfal comes out. UD makes an excellent case for the "reciprocal sub" system being pushed by John Leeder, et.al., whereby pubbers exchange credits for what they do. John puts out RUNESTONE weekly, each one being about average size to what a lot of pubbers produce monthly--or even bi-quarterly. Thus, in sheer weight, John turns out about 5 issue-equivalents to 1 received. Some trade, huh? But that's another story. I've forwarded your suggestions to Jerry Jones, one of the more active IDA folks. If anything's done, he'll be one to get it started.

Now to the next part, the bomb. I'll agree that this particular weapon doesn't really promise to do a whole hell of a lot for OUR side, although the Soviets should find it a godsend (despite what DOD says to the exact opposite). THEY are the ones that could really use it effectively, due to their desiring Western Europe, but even better, W Europe WITHOUT the Western Europeans IN it! We can do without it, unlike, say, the B-1 that we really need. My remarks in regard to Ben Grossman's letter were due to the basis he used, namely, that flower-child approach so typical of the New Leftist types. "It kills, therefore it's evil". This completely ignores reality, and is on some theoretical or ideological basis instead, no more complicated than that of an elementary schoolchild. E.g., 'war is harmful to flowers and other living things' and other such slogans that belie the mental level of such leftist 'thought'; therefore, don't fight in wars, because war is bad. Any of these folks ever consider that the alternative to fighting might well be WORSE? No, that's way beyond them. Just simple knee-jerk responses, that's their forte. Look at the

fiscal policies that Liberals push. Put in a nutshell, it could be paraphrased as "everything for everybody for nothing". They look at a program and ask "Will it do somebody some good?", and if the answer is yes, they put it through. No thought given to such irritating items that those pernicious Conservatives keep bringing up, like 'who will pay for it?' or 'will the benefits outweigh the costs?' . Read between the lines of the Turkish ~~AS~~ press, for instance. What is the basis there? The position there*is that the huge HEW monstrosity is to be blindly supported because it keeps the poor from starving, helps the lame, etc., etc. I think that's really the way liberals see things. In fact, if the bureaucracy did ANY of that, EVERYONE would support it; but the right wing looks at it and doesn't see any starving masses being sheltered from harm, etc., but rather, a non-working mass of bureaucrats growing fat on their GS16 salaries "administering" over programs that do more harm than good, if in fact they do any good at all. We probably agree on that, but I have to disagree on the 'overkill' item. My response has gone on too long already, so I won't elaborate overly here, but to me, these overkill statements are like saying we have 'overkill' if we issue the Army more bullets than the enemy has soldiers. Everyone agrees it takes more than one bullet per soldier to do any good, but when the scale rises to the much higher atomic plane, they think that one-bomb-does-it-all, and act accordingly. The Soviets are more realistic, lacking this A-War = End-of-the-World mentality that permeates the US. They prepare to wage and WIN one. They consider other factors, like, the enemy not standing still in huddled masses awaiting destruction, but perhaps waging an A-war with a military machine that has perhaps RECEIVED an attack, and is not functioning perfectly; aiming at cities that were perhaps EVACUATED the previous week; or trying to stop armies that might not conveniently be sitting still under the particular spot where the first throw of bombs fell. Soviet civil defense is serious; ours, non-existent. The Soviets pay attention to things like how much overpressure it takes to make a plant inoperative, and, what can be DONE about that; here, who reads that stuff? People here think one bomb within 50 miles will leave nothing but a 50-mile hole; the other side knows better. They, and the regular military here. Some folks are aware you must go back and destroy the rebuild capacity, and the inadequately damaged parts of the enemies' industrial base. But here, those authors in the military service journals are whistling in the dark, for all the good it does. You'll always have the overwhelming majority opinion on your side on this issue, but you're still way off base.)) J.74
 ((At the end of his letter, Bill added, 'I have a lot to say about religion, but I'll save it for another letter.' In view of the endless dirge above, I wouldn't blame you for writing Bill to say 'Never write to BB again!' u)) J.74.

333. LARRY L. BOST I ~~also~~ received your copies of BB 9 and 10. I was very impressed with the quality of BB. It is not your typical Dippy zine and I will be sure to say so in the review I will do in the RECON section of the mag. If you like...you can continue to send them along to me and I will review several of them in each issue of P&D. It might be of some help to you even though you do not wish to grow too large for "pleasure's purpose". I am very much taken with your brand of humor and even though I am from the South myself...I do not care for our close relationship with Panama (re., your cover for BB#10).
 (PURSUE + DESTROY)

I was very glad to see the ad for P&D in there. It looked very nice and it should serve the purpose very well. I appreciate your position concerning repeated ads and understand that some of the readers may not care for them in a Dippy zine. Thanks for saving the ad copy and I will hope to see it again as a filler once in a while.

If you should ever get the urge to write any Dippy material for us...please do not hesitate to do so. Or...you might insert a plug in the next BB asking if anyone out there would like to write for P&D as a Dippy man. We could use the material and they would get free issues out of it.

hope things continue to go well with you.

*as I see it.

((Glad you liked them. I have increased the print run with this issue to 42 to give me a few courtesy copies to send to those people I attack and the like. I hope to avoid too much of the long-winded stuff as I got into in the previous letter, but letters provide a lot of material and, like the Newell and Barch letters, e.g., really need and deserve to be answered. I like running the nonsense filler best, plus puzzles, jokes, anything like that, but of course that's the hardest stuff to get a hold of.)) J.m.

DAVID HUNT ((538 Lexington, East Lansing, MI 48823))

A question crossed my mind last issue with a press release in the new game. It seems to me that a lot of Postal Diplomacy players would probably admit to some political tendency. How many do you suppose would consider themselves "left" and how many would consider themselves "right"?

((They all consider themselves right, but with the large percentage in college and not yet at work cutting it in the 'real world', to use the old GI terminology, I suspect that you'd find about 45% left; 30% right; 25% either undecided, centrist, confused, unsure, or don't know what left and right means. In the general population it is said that about 55% of the population put themselves in the middle or right, but with party affiliations running 50% Demo, 25% Repub, I think that means that 45% label themselves outright Liberal, 35% 'middle-of-the-road', and 20% Conservative. The Liberal effect is magnified by their power centers, such as media (exc. press, which is still more Cons than Lib overall, altho the 'leaders' such as the NY Times and the like are all Liberal). Also among students, government ~~workers~~ employees, labor unions, minorities, and the like. The old traditional Conservative strongholds of church and military aren't very "in" type outfits in today's society here. Only business, being necessarily pragmatic in a capitalist system (to the extent were still capitalist), remains as an effective conservative center, and that too lacks the "in" popularity of, say, Blacks, gays, Indians, and the like. Really, I should have included something like that on the questionnaire. Perhaps your letter and Bobcat Bill's will produce some responses.....even if only "Please, no more of those!" U.S.M.

LETTER/TRAVELOGUE/PLUG foisted straight from Ruritania #44

2) One of the reasons I went to California was to see about doing my graduate work at USC. I'll be getting out of UNLV sometime next year and I'm sure I'll want to continue on for an MA. In what, exactly, I'm not sure. I'd like to stay with History but with the job market as it is...So I will probably be switching to International Relations, one of the main reasons I was thinking about going to USC. Their IR program is especially good. Unfortunately, their fees are a bit high. I'm going to see if I can wangle some money outta them. Afterall, if Maddog Mirti got a scholarship...

The trip was a lot of fun, despite the various places I had to sleep in. Thomas and I made our traditional pilgrimage to El Cholo's, a Mexican restaurant with incredible Margaritas (of which both I and Maddog are aficionados). After a "few" and a burrito dorado I was ready for the also traditional trip over to Westwood. (The women who go to UCLA are generally more interesting than those that attend USC; exactly why escapes me). LA is really a kind of fun place to visit.

3) This will probably be a fairly short issue. No "spacelanes" until net time. There may be an article in this if I have the time and room.

Ruritania Staff

Editor/Typist/Head CM-----Tony Watson 201 Minnesota St. Las Vegas
Nevada. 89107 Phone: (702)-878-7713
Associate CM-----Maddog Mirti, 942 West 54th #216, Los Angeles
California 90007 Phone (213)-746-4756
Quadrapped canine-----Amazing Dog Chuck (not taking calls)
Ditto Machine-----That Damned Thing
Ditto Machine Nurse-----"Jewels"

I would like to make a few comments and express my disapproval of some of the things with Brutus Bulletin, and the way me game is beening run.

First of all, please make sure my vote on black press is no. While the idea is not to bad, the abuse it is recieving in 1977KS is absurd (Italy is probally the worst offender).

I really think you should accept phone calls. With these short deadlines, those few extra days of negotiat-ing can be very critical. Also, please remember that almost all other publisher accept phone calls. In these 'zines the deadlines are three to four weeks, and even then the deadlines can seem to short. I already have needed to make more phone calls in this game, then any of my other.

I also saw another "Brutus Blooper" along with Brutus Bulletin today. So far these erros have only been minor, but they are still there. What is going to happen when a major error is made?

Remember that after finding out about an error you need to write you ally so that you don't goof up your plans. With you deadlines, there is not enough time to do this.

When I joined up for a game I didn't realize that you weren't going to allow phone calls or separation of seasons. True, you do allow this with approval of three people, but usually only one or two need it. Now isn't this unfair to them. Both this year and last year in 1977KS my spring orders could have been much better, if it wasn't for this. To cover the situation in the winter 1904/spring 1905 orders would have required over 50 sets of ~~the~~ different orders (Conditional, of course), even though many of the situations are similiar that is still alot of orders.

Also, when I joined, you promised "fast and cheap" games, and that was it. Nothing else. While I can't speak for the other people, I feel that your over-rushing to get out the games and making mistakes is completely defeatin this idea. With all of these errors we can not play the game to the best of our abilities.

If getting out Brutus Bulletin and the games out on the deadline day is to much, then please daly Brutus Bulletin so as to get the games out withoug mistake. Presonally, I rather play the game, even on three week deadlines, without goofs, then with errors. While I don't want to sound wise, wouldn't it be easier to simply make Brutus Bulletin shorter (even this issue looked desperate for filler) or run Brutus Bulletin with every other turns move, if it would make running the games correct easier.

I would appreciate you comments on this, whether or not you print this letter or not. If nothing else please poll your players/subbers on what they think about these ideas. Remember also that the players opoins are more important, since this more diffectly effects them.

(Reply to Lee Kendter, Jr)

Lee has raised a lot of points (like a lot of folks in this issue...), so let me take them paragraph by paragraph. P#2, black press. As GM, I can't say much about a game in progress, although I'll have a lot to throw in at the end. It's up to the players to decide how they like this one. Some avoid the press area altogether, others use it to considerable effect. Right now I'M the one who can really enjoy it; and I do!

Phone calls: Here I have to disagree with you. While it may well be true that the short deadlines cause trouble for your playing style, I think you can readily see that this is due to your playing style. Some others AVOID the phone, being reluctant to even GET calls about a postal game, unless it is an emergency-type board situation. I'm one of those. I do not wish to state or imply that this is necessarily any better than your own, but simply wish to point out that different styles are there. Some folks like to dawdle a lot too, a wider discussion of which was in a recent MIXUMAXU GAZETTE; lots of styles, but not all of which are compatible with BB. The purpose of starting BB was not and can not be to try and favorably accomodate all of these; that is impossible. So, I started and run my zine to satisfy what I always found to be the biggest deficiencies: slow turnaround, long deadlines, perpetual separations, phoned-in changes/lost-or-forgotten calls, etc. When I started, I used to try playing Dip by the 'book': write everyone, keep in touch, etc. That didn't last long. Now I can play a game as often as not with two or three letters a season, period, and a lot of those are just "reassurance" types. And I send more than I get even now. I act accordingly in BB. P4 Yes, there was another BRUTUS BLOOPER. The thing I hate most about finding one of these is, I instantly think "Oh-oh, I'm going to catch it from Lee Kendter again!" Your'e right, though; a game should go on without mistakes. If and when a major one occurs, we'll have to have a delay, unless my phone calls to the concerned players can handle it as has been the case to date. P5, yes, there is a shortage of time. That's what BB games are all about. They require that one plan ahead and not just throw together some set of actions at the last minute. Lots of this type criticism would be more accurate if BB were just another Dipzine serving the hobby whenever its GM gets ready and/or is in the mood. BB is unique, however, in that it is NOT, nor is it intended to be, just another Dipzine chugging along. It exists to fill the very serious need to have an outlet for people who prefer action and excitement to the more traditional fare of methodical separations to learn "A Nwy r FIN; build F NAP", etc. That's not much of an answer, but I hope that offering this explanation of WHY things are as they are here is superior to a more blunt statement of "Tough bananas" or something equally to the point. P7: True in large part, mistakes do mess things up, requiring an extra letter (or call, in your case). If I knew of an error-free editor, I'd refer you to him, but I'm afraid I know of none. It is sad but true that such oversights as we've had to date are as much a part of postal Dip as NMRs and late zines, and while we as players hate to see such things, that's the way the world is. P8. Filler never delays the issue, for it is prepared whenever there's nothing else around. Late orders, changes, last-minute press, master-preparation and the like cause the problems. If this were only a two sheet effort, one game each, the deadline rush would be the same. The filler is often ready over one issue ahead. I would not slow to three weeks even if I thought it would eliminate all problems, which I don't. I don't want to work to just turn out another run-of-the-mill Dipzine, 14 times a year. I do want to work to produce a fast zine that can finish two games by this fall and start a couple more in their stead. I feel confident I'll always be able to fill them, due to the lack of anything at all in the way of prompt competition. I'm sorry you feel you entered under these misconceptions, but that is beyond my ability to control. All I can do is make the offer and go from there. Perhaps when you've got WHY ME? under way, a couple of these points will be clearer, if only a couple. I certainly wish you well at avoiding all of these problems in your own zine where I trust your style player will be fully able to "play the game to the best of our abilities " without the handicaps that the pace of BB forces.

Two quick final points I forgo to cover. In KS, with 7 players still there, a separation would require FOUR votes to pass. Next, yes, it is unfair to the one or two affected who might want a separation. On the other hand, a separation is unfair to the six or five who do NOT. Forcing the minority to make a decision or think out

their next move is certainly the lesser of two evils in my book.

Finally, I do as always encourage all players to comment on whatever they find important, or even on the things they find unimportant. So far, I'm of the opinion that most players prefer the "pressure" of the fast pace, despite its costs. If I'm wrong, let me know!!

VARIOUS NOTES

I'd better get into this part before letters force me to junk the cover! Actually, this may prove to be a popular issue, for just that reason. If the letters are a little too much, say so, and I'll emphasize something else.

PHONE CALLS As you know, I accept no phoned in orders, this being a zine of postal Diplomacy. However, if you spot a mistake and want to save us all some time, or THINK you've spotted something important, I'll be glad to talk to you just as I am should you care to just BS about anything else. Use (405) 794-1604 evenings & wkends, or (405) 232-3241, ext 52 days (ask for John).

STANDBYS currently are PRICE, NEWELL, REGES, KELLY, SERGEANT, in no particular order. If you want on or off, let me know.

BRUCE HOBDEYS last BB was returned by the USPS. Anyone out there know if he's moved or whatever?

LAST ISSUE's printing was pretty bad, but I feel better after getting the latest EVERYTHING. I was just barely able to make some of it out. Like 2/3s, due to the pages soaking through or whatever the printing term for it is. Thus I had to retype Rod WALKER's letter. If you didn't read it this issue, go back and find it. It could be important to you.

ITEM BELOW is filched directly from DIPLOMACY REVIEW 7-2, recently received, organ of the IDA. It was well printed throughout, done up by JERRY JONES. He also produces the excellent LIES, DECEIT, & NEFARIOUS SCHEMES which he expects me to mention every issue, so there's your mention, Jerry.

Search through your files and see if you can't come up with a copy of the IDA-NA constitution. If you can find one Please send it to me (Jerry H. Jones 1854 Wagner St. Pasadena, CA 91107) ASAP. Thought that I ought to read it.

Current Council:

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WANTED via trade or purchase: STAR WARS cards, various #s. Write for details. FOR SALE: RAPHAIA, and about a dozen cards of blank troop counters. Also, one 6-9" stack of assorted Dipzines. All cheap. Write GM. (Jerry J., run this ad in LD&NS too, please)

Offshore Gas Probe Ends; No Withholding Found

LAST YEAR the papers played up the "withholding" charges big, but I doubt if you've seen much on this item:
(From Energy Management 3262, May 2, 1978)

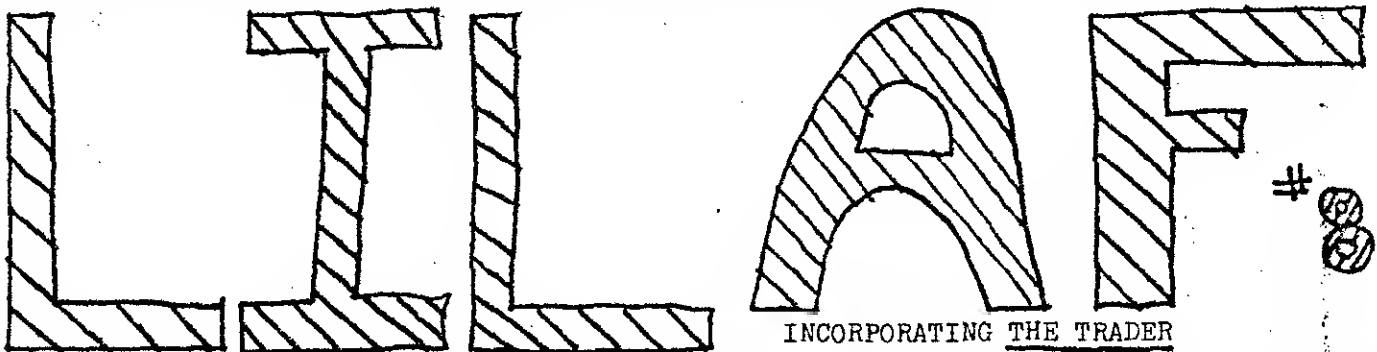
Fifteen months ago, in the wake of the natural gas shortages of the 1976-1977 winter, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus voiced suspicions that producers holding federal leases in the Gulf of Mexico were sitting on their gas in anticipation of higher prices in the future. Those suspicions were unfounded according to a study of six offshore gas fields that was conducted by the National Research Council at the request of the Interior Department. NRC is the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

Of the six areas examined, only one—Texaco's Tiger Shoal field—was found to hold a promise for increased short-term production. The other five fields—Cameron Block 64, Continental and Mobil; Eugene Island Block 64; Continental; Vermilion Block 14 Unit, Union; South Marsh Island Block 48; Shell, Union, Amoco, and Gulf Energy and Minerals; and East Cameron Block 271, Tenneco, Phillips, Pennzoil, and Texaco—are being produced at or near optimum levels, NRC said.

PLUGS This is to announce the addition of Thomas Gould's LILAF to my list of current traders. When deciding how to go about plugging it for him, I decided the best way would be to let it speak for itself. The cover is a good indication of the tone of the publication as a whole. J M.

In a jungle wilderness where the silence is punctuated by the cries of wild beasts, a group of vaguely human beings cluster around a fire, huddling away from the dangers concealed in the darkness of the night. Those closest to the fire are the most firm, the ablest, those destined to survive; all except one. One is old, with frail limbs and a thinner belly than most of those around the fire. This one is the Storyteller. This is what makes the difference between the beasts and those who may one day become human. This is the inkling that will lead the race on to its destiny in the stars.

The gathering silences. The Storyteller is about to begin. It is a song more than a story, an epic of survival among the dangers of the wild, the elemental struggle for existence. The audience is brought to deep expressions of emotion: beatings of chests, weeping, tearing of hair. The story being told is



Number Eight

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The Free City of New York

Lilaf is a fanzine featuring science-fiction, wargaming, the intimate details of the editor's personal life, and whatever else he wishes to put in. Letters of comment (or just plain letters) are encouraged, and anything the editor chooses to print is rewarded at the rate of one dollar in sub-credit per printed page. Contributions are encouraged at this rate. Subscriptions are eight issues for two dollars. Back issues are available at 25¢ each or five for one dollar. Copies of issues 1, 2, 5, and 6 are available, as well as double issue 3/4. Available for an SASE are a sample copy of Lilaf, and a copy of my houserules for the game of Diplomacy (R).

There are openings in Diplomacy, which is a trademark of the Avalon Hill Company, at a cost of no (zero) dollars. Games are free, which is compared to John Boardman's Graustark where the gamefee is in excess of ten dollars. I have one person signed up for a game. Hey, you, out there! You're not going to get it any cheaper!

There are also openings in Conquistador, which is a trademark of Simulations Publications Incorporated, 44 East 23rd Street, NYC, 10010 which is \$8 in a zip-lock bag. I have no one signed up for it at this time.

There are finally openings in a postal En Garde to be gamesmastered by Edward Lay. En Garde is the trademark of Game Designers' Workshop.

I am the teller for this year's Diplomacy Silliness Awards (nee the Geringnami Awards). Please send in any nominations you have in the fields of exceptional silliness in the postal Diplomacy hobby. I did not make up a ballot, and would like some suggestions for categories of the awards. Possible categories are: Silliest Regular Game, Silliest Variant Game, Silliest Player, Publisher, Press-writer, Zine. Write me!

(Thomas Gould, 40 W. 77 St, NYC, NY 10024)

FWS Publication #15

When the examiner signals, turn the page and begin the exam

guess I wouldn't like Starship Troopers as much as I read it today for the

((This is filched directly from the just-arrived URF DURFAL #30, primarily because I'm flabbergasted to find rational stuff in a zine addressed from the "Free City of NY")
An Open Letter to President Carter

An excellent issue. Good history article in it

Recently, you decided to shelve production of the "neutron bomb", a tactical nuclear weapon slated to be introduced to reinforce American tactical nuclear capability in Western Europe.

Let me preface my remarks with these: I consider myself to be an humanitarian. I fully believe that the arms race we have engaged in with the Soviet Union over the last thirty years is insane; I believe that anyone who can even contemplate the use of strategic nuclear weapons is insane, as all-out use of such weapons means nothing less than the destruction of our civilization, the deaths of hundreds of millions of people, and devastation beyond compare. A strategic nuclear war would be a disaster of unparalleled scope; and I fervently hope that some sort of limitations can be set on nuclear weapons, leading to an eventual abandonment of such weapons. I would also urge that the USA and USSR reconsider placing all strategic nuclear weapons under an international authority (such as the United Nations) and abandon national use and stockpiling of such weapons. Further, I would urge that top priority be given to the development of defenses against nuclear weapons, such as laser AA and ABM installations, and satellite-borne anti-missile weapons.

However, in addition to being an humanitarian, I am a realist. I recognize that we are in an arms race with the Soviet Union. I also recognize that the Soviet Union is dominated by a totalitarian government with designs of world conquest. I do not know whether the Soviet Union would use nuclear weapons against the United States if it were to gain a sufficient technological lead on the U.S.; but the possibility remains, and even the possibility of the total destruction of our nation must be guarded against.

Current Soviet tactics call for the use of massed tank armies in an assault on Western Europe, should such a conflict occur. The neutron bomb is a weapon specifically designed to counter such tactics. That is, it is of great efficacy against targets composed of massed tanks.

Therefore, it is in the interests of the United States and its Western European allies to field the neutron bomb. The neutron bomb lends greater credibility to NATO forces in Europe, because it makes it more likely that NATO could effectively counter a Soviet assault. Therefore, fielding the weapon would help to deter such an attack. Furthermore, in the actual event of such an attack, the bomb would prove a useful weapon, blunting Soviet armored thrusts. Currently, Warsaw Pact forces in Europe outnumber NATO troops by a superiority of more than two to one; as a result, NATO troops must be equipped with superior weapons and better-trained men if they are to be able to contain a Soviet attack.

Great outcries have been made against the neutron bomb on the grounds that it is an evil, inhuman device that destroys human beings and not property. In actuality, this is untrue; the neutron bomb does destroy property, although less than a conventional tactical nuclear weapon. The neutron bomb, is, like all weapons of war, an inhuman device that kills people in a rather grisly manner. Like all nuclear weapons, the neutron bomb should be banned.

But, in simple point of fact, the neutron bomb is no better or worse than any of the tactical nuclear weapons already in the possession of NATO troops. The neutron bomb is better in many ways than strategic nuclear weapons, for the neutron bomb is designed to be used against enemy troop formations, and thus would kill primarily enemy soldiers, whereas strategic nuclear weapons are designed to kill enemy civilians, thus killing innocent men, women and children.

The neutron bomb has received very bad press from the world press; this is unwarranted. The neutron bomb is no better and no worse than other weapons

already in existence. Might one wonder how much of this bad press has been financed by the KGB or other hostile intelligence agencies?

In addition to the world press, the American liberal intellectual elite has chosen to look on the neutron bomb with disfavor, as it had looked on every weapon of defense since the late 1960's. It is understandable, therefore, that you have chosen to shelve the neutron bomb on the grounds that doing so will increase good will towards America abroad, and pacify the intelligentsia in this country.

In summary: Although all nuclear weapons are horrible, the neutron bomb is no worse than most, and better than some; the neutron bomb would be a valuable weapon in Western Europe, and is one most NATO nations desire the field; the neutron bomb has acquired a bad reputation as a result of ~~xx~~ activities of the liberal intelligentsia and coverage in the world press.

On balance, there are no substantive, rational arguments to be used against the neutron bomb. The only effective argument is a moral one, and this argument should be applied to all nuclear weapons, not to the neutron bomb alone. There are very good reasons to deploy the neutron bomb. Therefore, if one considers the matter dispassionately and rationally, the neutron bomb should definitely be developed.

The only argument against the bomb that bears weight, and, I believe, the argument that has prompted your decision, is the bad press the weapon has received. This is not a substantive argument, but rather one based on world opinion.

Is it good leadership, and is it to the benefit of the nations, ~~zzz~~ to place the safety of Western Europe in jeopardy simply to pacify world opinion?

Greg Costikyan ((1675 York Ave, NYC 10028. UD is 8/42))

Specific Responses to Ben Grossman:

The neutron bomb is a weapon that kills people; therefore, it should not be deployed. This is the sum of Mr. Grossman's argument. All weapons kill people; logically, therefore, all weapons ought to be banned. Perhaps this is a logical and moral argument; but it leaves out the possibilities of self-defense. If the City of New York bans all weapons within its limits, this means that only the criminal elements of the city will bear weapons. Consequently, the law-abiding portion of the population is left defenseless against the violent actions of the criminal element. In the same way, if the "peace-loving" nations of the world such as the United States unilaterally disarm, the world is left to the mercies of such totalitarian governments as ~~thx~~ of the Soviet Union, which, surely, will not disarm.

This being the case, we must retain our arms and our ability to defend ourselves. Ideally, we should constantly be reaching towards a modus vivendi with the Soviet Union which will allow both of us to reduce our armaments expenditures; perhaps, at some point in the future, it will be possible to proclaim bilateral disarmament.

Since we are to remain armed, we should take up the most effective arms possible: for the greater our capacity for defense, the greater the danger to an aggressor we pose, the less the chance that there will be aggression.

When considering any question, one must consider the matter from all viewpoints, and integrate the questions into one's view of the world. One cannot simply examine the question in terms of moral absolutes, because without a constant reference to the real world situation, such an examination can only reach absurd and erroneous conclusions. Of course, the neutron bomb is a moral evil; so is death and slaughter of any kind. But one cannot ignore the fact that death is a fact of life (so to speak) and the need for defense a real one.